

# Magnetic Particle Inspection

Fluorescent Magnetic Particles

Colored Magnetic Particles

Carrier Fluids

**Contrast Paints** 





# The Importance of Magnetic Particle Inspection

Magnetic particle inspection (MPI) is a nondestructive testing (NDT) method that does not harm the parts being inspected. MPI is a cost-effective and reliable testing method commonly used to identify surface and slightly subsurface discontinuities in ferromagnetic materials. The process is used on machined parts, iron and steel castings, forgings, welds, parts that undergo heat treatment, and several other applications that will be placed into service or already are in service and require maintenance. MPI is often used to locate defects in mechanical parts in the aerospace, automotive, oil & gas, welding and power generation industries.

The process of magnetic particle inspection involves generating a magnetic field and applying magnetic particles, visible or fluorescent, to a part being inspected. After applying magnetization, if an indication is present, the particles will accumulate directly over the discontinuity at the magnetic flux leakage fields. The indication can then be visually detected under proper lighting conditions. The part may be accepted, rejected, or repaired according to industry specifications.



#### Immediate results

Magnetic particle inspection is fast and relatively easy to apply, making it one of the most widely utilized nondestructive testing methods.



### **Detects surface and sub-surface discontinuities**

Magnetic particle inspection is an ideal method for detecting surface and subsurface defects in ferromagnetic materials.



## **Detection through coatings**

Magnetic particle inspection may detect discontinuities through thin nonconductive coatings, such as paint (on the order of 1 to 2 mil or 0.02 to 0.05 mm) and does not require the removal of the coating which can save time and money during the inspection process.

## **Determining Inspection Method**

The primary considerations when deciding between visible or fluorescent inspection are the type of indication on the part, and where you will be physically inspecting the part.

## **Visible Color Inspection**

This method is ideal for locating large surface defects. Visible inspection may be performed indoors or outdoors with portable applications under white light.

## **Fluorescent Inspection**

This method is ideal for locating very fine discontinuities at or just below the surface. Fluorescent inspection must be done in a dark room with a maximum white light intensity of 2 fc (22 lux) and performed under ultraviolet light.

# **Determining Application Method**

Magnetic particles can be applied to a part as either a powder (dry method) or suspended in a liquid (wet method) such as an oil- or water-based carrier.

## **Dry Method Visible**

This method is ideal for low to medium sensitivity inspections, and works on most ferrous metal surfaces. It is commonly used in field testing and yoke inspection when working with rough cast or forged parts.

### **Products Needed**

- Dry powders
- Magnetic yoke or power pack

## **Wet Method Visible**

This method is ideal for high sensitivity inspections on parts with varying shapes and sizes. It is commonly used for detecting shallow and fine surface cracks in outdoor testing environments.

#### **Products Needed**

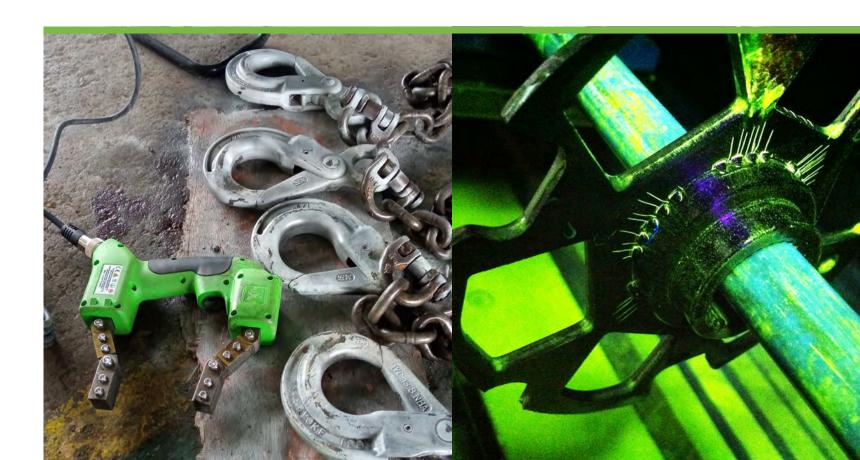
- Black particle
- White contrast paint
- Magnetic yoke or power pack

### **Wet Method Fluorescent**

This method is ideal for high volume, high sensitivity inspections on parts. Quickly and easily coat the parts with an even layer of magnetic particle bath.

#### **Products Needed**

- Powder, premix, or concentrate particles
- Carrier oil or water
- Wet bench or power pack



# **Common Applications**



**Aerospace** processes commonly use **fluorescent magnetic** particles and NDT-approved carrier oils for safety critical ferrous parts including steel alloy landing gear.



**Automotive** processes commonly use **fluorescent or visible** magnetic particles to inspect ferrous components such as crank shafts and engine heads.



Oil & Gas commonly use fluorescent or visible magnetic particles to inspect ferrous parts such as tubular goods, couplings, or bottom hole assembly.

## **Common Terms**

**Background** – The surface of the test part against which the indication is viewed.

**Defect** – A material or component that does not meet the specified acceptance criteria and is rejectable.

**Demagnetization** – A process through which magnetism is removed from a test part.

**Ferromagnetic** – A metal with a chemical composition largely iron and a high susceptibility to magnetization.

**Inspection** – Visual examination of the test part after completion of the magnetic particle testing processing steps.

Magnetic flux leakage – The magnetic field of a test part will exit and re-enter at the location of the discontinuity producing a visible indication as a result of magnetic particles collection.

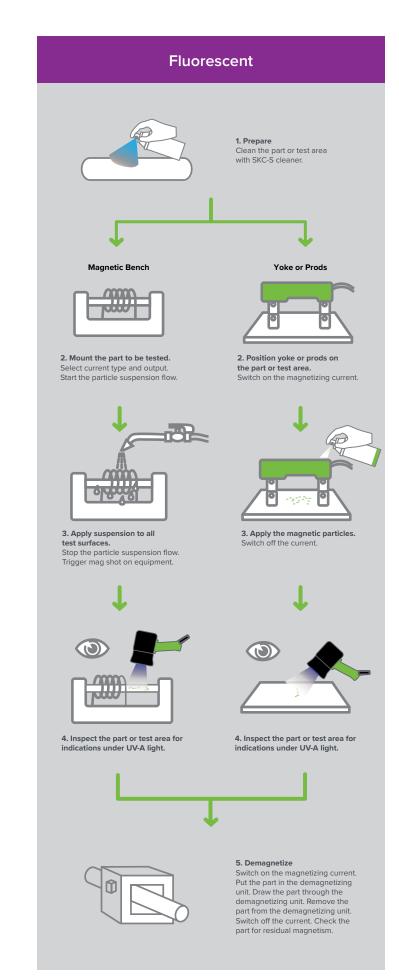
## **Magnetic Particle Testing –**

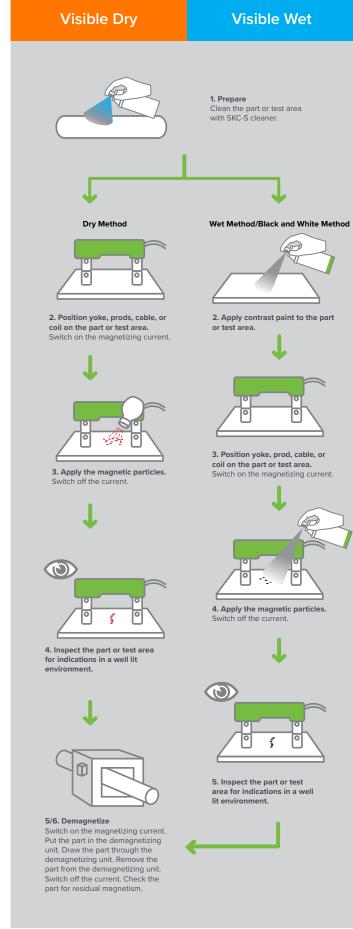
A nondestructive test that uses magnetic particles to detect discontinuities located at or near the surface in ferromagnetic materials.

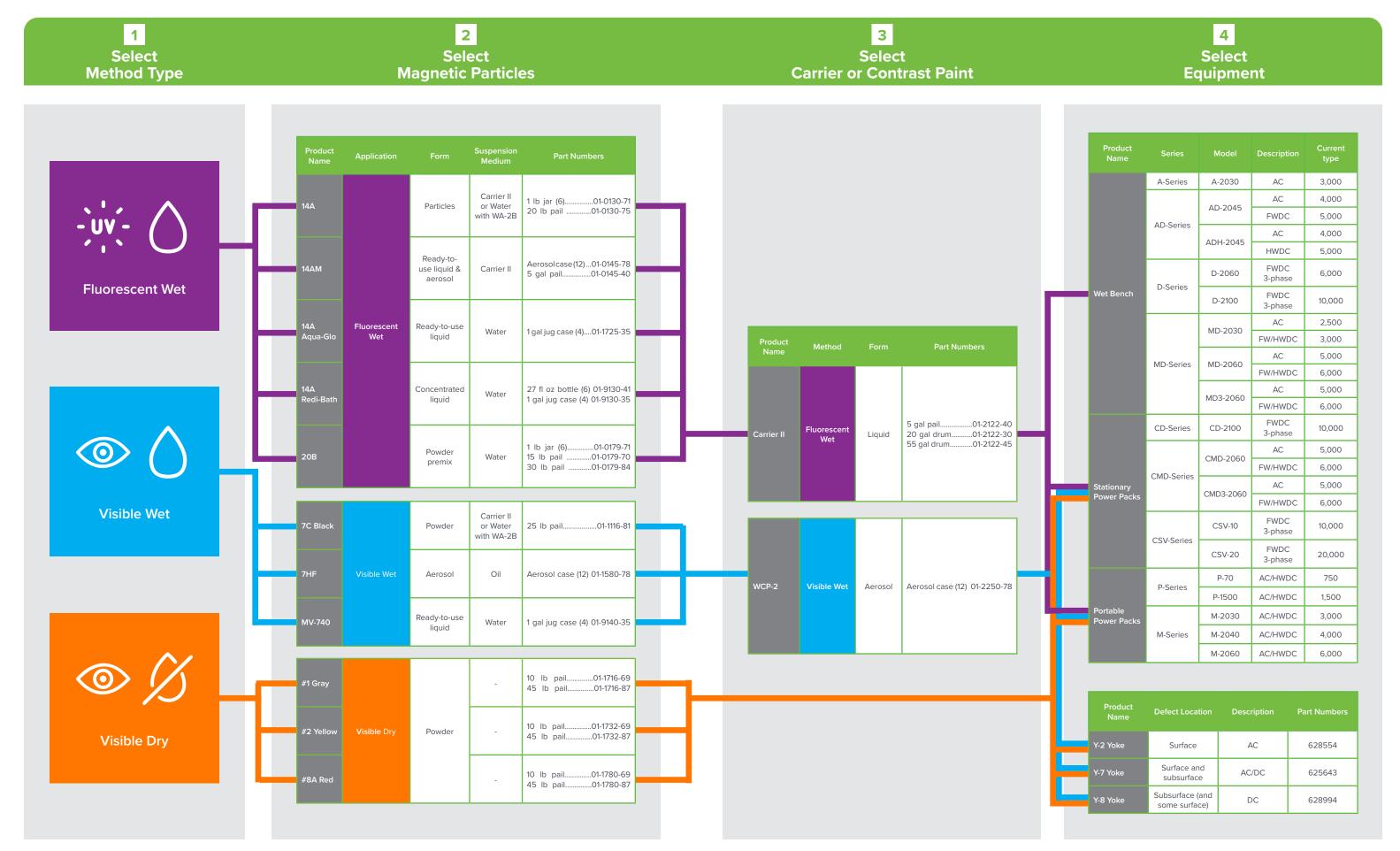
**Precleaning** – The removal of surface contaminants from the test part so that they will not interfere with the examination process.

Magnetic Yoke – Portable device for detecting surface and sub-surface cracking in any ferromagnetic material.

**Ultraviolet Lamps** – Black lights that are designed for use with fluorescent magnetic particle and liquid penetrant inspection.









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