Verification and Validation of LS-DYNA[®] for the Transport and Storage of Radioactive Materials

Gilles Marchaud¹, Valérie Saint-Jean¹

¹AREVA TN, Montigny-le-Bretonneux, France

1 Introduction

For 50 years, AREVA TN has been supplying customer-focused, innovative transportation and storage solutions for radioactive material with the highest levels of safety and security.

Transportation and storage casks are designed to comply with stringent regulations. For instance, a cask designed to transport radioactive material may be required to withstand a 9m drop onto a flat unyielding target.

AREVA TN performs LS-DYNA analyses to evaluate the crashworthiness of casks and to reduce the number of costly real tests. Such a methodology relies on the capability of the computer code to model the main physical phenomena that occur in a cask and its content when they are subject to a transient mechanical event.

The validity of LS-DYNA is confirmed by comparing its results with reference results, for a variety of test cases covering these phenomena. The reference results are obtained either analytically or from real tests. AREVA TN defined specific test cases to validate aspects such as constitutive laws, rigid-body displacement, geometric nonlinearities or contacts.

The present paper will focus on a selection of these test cases and present their features as well as their results.

2 Transport and Storage Regulations and Numerical Analyses

The international regulations for transport [1] are issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a United Nations agency.

The IAEA regulations define standard scenarios that have been designed to be representative of the real events a loaded cask may be subject to and shall withstand so that the hazards to persons and the environment remain under an acceptable level of control.

Section VII of [1] specifies the standard drop tests a given cask should be able to withstand. The beginning of section VII explains that the safety demonstration can be based on a combination of real tests, reasoned arguments and <u>calculations</u>:

"Section VII – TEST PROCEDURES

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPLIANCE

701. Demonstration of compliance with the performance standards required in Section VI shall be accomplished by any of the following methods or by a combination thereof:

(a) Performance of tests (...) with prototypes or samples of the packaging (...).

(b) Reference to previous satisfactory demonstrations of a sufficiently similar nature.

(c) Performance of tests with models of appropriate scale, (...).

(d) <u>Calculation</u>, or reasoned argument, <u>when the calculation procedures and parameters are</u> generally agreed to be reliable or conservative."

Thus, the regulations emphasize the requirement for reliable or conservative calculations.

Another IAEA document [2] brings guidance for applying IAEA regulations [1]. Regarding paragraph 701 of [1], document [2] explains the following:

"701.13. Many calculations could require the use of **commercially available computer codes. The** reliability and the appropriate validation of the computer code selected should be considered. First, is the code applicable for the intended calculation? For example, for mechanical assessments, can it accept impact calculations? Is it suitable for calculating plastic as well as elastic deformations? Second, does the computer code adequately represent the packaging under review for the purpose of compliance? To meet these two criteria, it may be necessary for the user to run 'benchmark' problems, which use the code to model and calculate the parameters of a problem in which the results are known. Options settings may have a strong influence on the validity of the benchmark studies to the problem being solved. In mechanical codes, options and modelling considerations include package material properties under dynamic conditions, elastic and plastic deformations, detailing connections between components such as screws and welds, and allowing for friction, hydrodynamic, sliding and damping effects. User experience in the proper selection of code options, material properties and mesh selection can affect results using a particular code. Benchmark studies should also consider sensitivity of the results to parameter variation. Confidence can be increased by systematic benchmarking, proceeding from the simple to the complex. For other uses, checks that the input and output balances in load or energy may be required. When the code used is not widely employed or known, proof of the theoretical correctness should also be given."

The calculations may be carried out with <u>computer codes</u> and may replace some real tests.

The use of a widely employed commercial computer code such as LS-DYNA [3] avoids having to prove the main theories behind the code. LS-DYNA is obviously capable of modeling the main physical phenomena that occur in a cask and its content when they are subject to a transient mechanical event.

However, LS-DYNA has to be used with the appropriate options settings, the appropriate element formulations, the appropriate material laws and parameters, etc. Moreover, LS-DYNA indicators of good convergence (such as hourglass energy) also have to be checked.

3 AREVA TN's Current Practice to Guarantee the Validity of Numerical Analyses

In order to meet these conditions, AREVA TN uses the following methodology:

The validity of LS-DYNA is confirmed by comparing its results with
reference results, for a variety of test cases covering the main
phenomena at stake. The reference results are obtained either
analytically or from real tests.
The validity of LS-DYNA, when run on the given computer system
(hardware, OS) with a given number of cores used in SMP, is
confirmed by comparing its results with the results obtained during
the qualification process.
Remark: for repeatability reasons and accuracy reasons, only SMP,
double-precision versions of LS-DYNA are used.
LS-DYNA models of entire casks are usually benchmarked against
real tests to validate them before being used for sensitivity analyses.
Every LS-DYNA analysis is thoroughly checked with the help of a
dedicated checklist. In addition to the model check itself, it also
includes a check of the qualification field.
An internal "standard" is updated to record good practice and
feedback that shall be taken into account in all calculations
performed.
Diplomas, attendance to training courses and experience are
recorded in an individual skill follow-up document.

Table 1: AREVA TN's methodology to guarantee the validity of numerical analyses.

It should be noted that "Qualification" and "Validation" as defined above ("Q&V" for short herein) do not correspond directly to the classical definitions of "Verification" and "Validation" ("V&V", see [10]), but the set of Q&V actions and the set of V&V actions almost coincide.

4 Qualification of LS-DYNA

The validity of a given version of LS-DYNA is confirmed by comparing its results with reference results, for a variety of test cases covering the main phenomena at stake. The reference results are obtained either analytically or from real tests.

AREVA TN has defined specific test cases to validate:

- The main constitutive laws suitable for shock absorbing materials (for example woods) and metals,
- The time integration scheme, with a view to the conservation of total energy,
- The implementation of geometric nonlinearities (large displacements and rotations),
- The correct representation of mass/stiffness distribution (vibrations, rigid-body displacements),
- Shockwave propagation,
- Energy dissipation in a complex structure composed with components in contact with each other.

Type of Element Reference ID Test case What is tested Materials test case results types Free vibration of a Time integration scheme Solid, Analytical Conservation of energy 1 simply-supported Elastic Shell [4] beam Mass and stiffness matrices Time integration scheme Simple Conservation of energy Solid. Analytical 2 Pendulum Mass distribution Elastic Shell [5], [6] Geometric non-linearities (large displ. and rotations) Inter-Pipe with internal Elastic-plastic behavior 3 Solid Elastic-plastic Analytical mediate Quasi-static analysis pressure High-speed dynamics Impact Bar impact 4 Plastic impact Solid Elastic-plastic test (Taylor test) Shockwave propagation [7] M42 screw 5 Quasi-static equilibrium Solid Elastic Analytical preload Elastic-Axial crushing of a Elastic-plastic behavior plastic, with Crushing 6 pre-deformed tube -Large strains Solid strain-rate test Benchmark Elastic-plastic buckling dependency Complex Confined crushing 7 of wood cylinders Wood behavior Solid Wood Analytical with inclined fibers Low-velocity impact Elastic-plastic onto a concrete Concrete behavior Solid. Impact 8 (steel), structure -Coupling with rebars test _ beam concrete Benchmark Oblique drop of Impact of a Elastic-plastic Drop test Solid. TN®17/2 cask -9 complex structure Shell (steel), wood [9] Benchmark

Test cases no. 1, 2, 4 and 9 will be presented in the present paper:

Table 2: Description of the qualification test cases. Non-grayed cases will be presented.

LS-DYNA results have been obtained with LS-DYNA version R6.1.1 SMP double precision.

4.1 Test Case 1: Free Vibration of a Simply-Supported Beam

4.1.1 Description

An elastic beam, with both ends simply supported, is initially undeformed. An initial transverse velocity field is defined and represents the first eigenmode of the beam: the transverse velocity is a sine function of the abscissa along the beam (half a period).

We are interested in conservation of energy and in the eigenperiod.

Capturing vibrations properly is important to accurately assess dynamic amplification phenomena that might occur in impacted casks.

4.1.2 Geometry

The beam is a parallelepiped: length L = 1 m, width b = 100 mm, thickness h = 50 mm. Ratio h/L = 1/20 makes it possible to apply the theory of thin shells: shear strains can be neglected with respect to bending strains.

4.1.3 Material

Material	Density ρ [kg/m ³]	Young's modulus E [GPa]	Poisson's ratio v
Linear elastic steel	7850	210	0.3

4.1.4 Initial Conditions

Y-component of velocity is: $v_Y(x) = v_0 \times \cos(\pi x/L)$ with $v_0 = 1$ m/s.

Beam ends are located at abscissas: $x = \pm L/2$.

The velocity is low enough so that the maximum displacement corresponds to a "membrane" internal energy ("taut string" effect) that is negligible with respect to the bending internal energy.

4.1.5 Boundary Conditions

The 3 translational degrees of freedom are fixed for all nodes located simultaneously on the midthickness plane and at one beam end.

4.1.6 Reference Results

k = 98

 $I = b.h^3 / 12$

 $m = \rho.b.h$

Angular frequency of first eigenmode of beam: $\omega = \sqrt{k \frac{E.I}{m I^4}}$ [4]

Where:

Coefficient depending on boundary conditions Moment of inertia of the beam cross-section Mass per unit length.

The eigenperiod can be calculated as follows: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{1}{k} \frac{m.L^4}{E.I}} = 8.501834 \text{ ms}$

4.1.7 LS-DYNA Models

More or less fine meshes are tested, with either solid or shell elements (see Fig. 1).



Fig.1: Meshes for the beam vibration test case.

Several element formulations are tested:

Flomont	Nodos por		Integration points			
formulation	formulation element node		Per element	On mid- surface	Through the thickness	
Solid 1: Constant stress (default)	8	3	1	-	-	
Solid 2: Fully integrated S/R	8	3	8	-	-	
Shell 2: Belytschko-Tsay	4	6	2	1	2	
Shell 6: S/R Hughes-Liu	4	6	8 (a) 2 (b)	4 (a) 1 (b)	2	
(a) For membrane and ben	ding strains.	(b)	For out-of-plane	shear strains.		

Table 3: Element formulations for the beam vibration test case.

Hourglass control type: default (standard LS-DYNA viscous form).

Material: type 1 ***MAT_ELASTIC** (linear elastic isotropic).

The time step is determined automatically (default).

4.1.8 LS-DYNA Results – Comparison with Reference Results

Conservation of energy is measured with the ratio:

(kinetic energy + internal energy at t=10ms) / (kinetic energy + internal energy at t=0).

The eigenperiod is measured as the second time when the mid-length y-displacement is zero.

		{Ekin + Eint (10ms)} / {Ekin + Eint (0)}			Ei the	genperiod, d reference ei	ivided by genperiod
Element formulation	Element count	Ref. value	LS-DYNA results	Relative error: (LSD.–Ref.) / Ref.	Ref. value	LS-DYNA results	Relative error: (LSD.–Ref.) / Ref.
Solid 1: Constant stress (default)	10x4	1	0.955271	-4.47%	1	1.035795	+3.58%
Solid 2: Fully integrated S/R	30x2	1	0.999939	-0.01%	1	0.955367	-4.46%
Shell 2:	4	1	1.010451	+1.05%	1	0.994536	-0.55%
Belytschko-Tsay	6	1	0.996052	-0.39%	1	1.003846	+0.38%
Shell 6:	4	1	1.010451	+1.05%	1	0.992747	-0.73%
S/R Hughes-Liu	6	1	0.996043	-0.40%	1	1.002934	+0.29%

Table 4: Results of the beam vibration test case.

The precision on energy conservation and eigenperiod is better than 5%: the test case is validated.

Remarks:

- With constant stress solid elements, a minimum of 4 elements through the thickness is required to capture the bending stress profile. These elements induce small energy dissipation due to hourglass control damping. They are slightly too soft (larger eigenperiod) due to under-integration.
- With fully integrated, selectively reduced solid elements, only 2 elements through the thickness are required to capture the bending stress profile. These elements do not dissipate energy, but they are a bit too stiff (smaller eigenperiod) because pure bending artificially creates out-of-plane shear strains and stresses. To obtain even better accuracy, AREVA TN's standard practice is to model at least 3 elements through the thickness of all parts, but only 2 elements through the thickness of washers, since they are mainly subjected to compression.
- Shell elements are more accurate than solid elements since their rotational degrees of freedom enable them to capture bending accurately.

4.2 Test Case 2: Pendulum

4.2.1 Description

A pendulum subject to gravity is dropped without initial velocity from a position different from its static equilibrium position.

We are interested in the pendulum eigenperiod.

4.2.2 Geometry

The pendulum arm is a plate: length L = 200 mm, width I = 50 mm, thickness t = 1 mm. The end mass is a cube: side a = 50 mm.

4.2.3 Material

Material	Part	Density ρ [kg/m ³]	Young's modulus E [GPa]	Poisson's ratio v
Linear elastic steel	Cubic mass	7850	210	0.3
Rigid steel	Arm	7850	-	-

4.2.4 Initial Conditions

The initial velocity field is zero. The initial angle is 60° with respect to the vertical axis.

4.2.5 Boundary Conditions

The 3 translational degrees of freedom are fixed for the pivotal node.

4.2.6 Load

A gravity field $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ is applied in the -y direction.

4.2.7 Reference Results

For small oscillations, the eigenperiod is (formula m 56 of [5]): $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{J_o}{m.g.l_{oG}}} = 0.9617667 \text{ s}$

Where:

 J_O mass moment of inertia w.r.t. pivotal point Omtotal mass of pendulum $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ gravity acceleration l_{OG} distance between O and c.o.g. G.

With:
$$J_{O} = J_{O}^{arm} + J_{O}^{cube}$$
 $J_{O}^{arm} = J_{Garm}^{arm} + m_{arm} \cdot (l_{OGarm})^{2} = \frac{m_{arm}}{12} (l^{2} + 4L^{2}) + m_{arm} \cdot (\frac{L}{2})^{2}$
 $J_{O}^{cube} = J_{Gcube}^{cube} + m_{cube} \cdot (l_{OGcube})^{2} = \frac{m_{cube}}{12} (a^{2} + 4a^{2}) + m_{cube} \cdot (L + \frac{a}{2})^{2}$
 $m = m_{arm} + m_{cube}$ $m_{arm} = \rho \cdot L \cdot l \cdot e$ $m_{cube} = \rho \cdot a^{3}$
 $l_{OG} = [m_{arm} \cdot (L/2) + m_{cube} \cdot (L + a/2)]/m$

For large oscillations, the eigenperiod depends on the initial angle ([6]):

$$T' = T \cdot \sqrt{1 + \frac{\theta_0^2}{8}} = 1.02551553 \text{ s}$$
 $\frac{T'}{T} = 1.06633852$

4.2.8 LS-DYNA Model

The rigid arm is meshed with default-formulation shell elements, the mass is meshed with default-formulation constant stress solid elements (see Fig. 2).



Fig.2: Mesh of pendulum test case.

Hourglass control type: default (standard LS-DYNA viscous form).

Materials: type 1 *MAT_ELASTIC (linear elastic isotropic), type 20 *MAT_RIGID (rigid).

Gravity is applied thanks to ***LOAD_BODY_Y**.

The time step is determined automatically (default).

4.2.9 LS-DYNA Results - Comparison with Reference Results

The half eigenperiod is measured as the time when vertical velocity vy of cube central node is zero again.

Half eigenperiod				
Ref. value	Relative error: (LS-DYNA – Ref.) / Ref.			
0.512758 s	0.509254 s	-0.68%		

Table 5: Results of the pendulum test case.

LS-DYNA correctly captures geometric non-linearities due to large displacements and rotations: the test case is validated.

4.3 Test Case 4: Bar Impact (Taylor Test)

4.3.1 Description

An elastic-plastic cylindrical bar impacts a rigid planar target with a high velocity (120-266 m/s).

The real test is described in ref. [7].

We are interested in:

- The propagation velocity of an acoustic wave along the bar just after the impact begins,
- The deformed geometry of the bar after the impact.

4.3.2 Geometry

Cylindrical bar: length L = 16 mm, radius R = 4 mm.

4.3.3 Material

Material	Density ρ [kg/m³]	Young's modulus E [GPa]	Poisson's ratio v	Quasi-static yield stress $\sigma_e(\dot{0})$ [MPa]
Elastic-plastic stainless steel	7850	210	0.3	340

On the plastic domain boundary, the Von Mises stress is a function of the equivalent plastic strain and of the equivalent plastic strain rate:

$$\sigma(\varepsilon_p, \dot{\varepsilon}) = \sigma_e(\dot{\varepsilon}) \cdot (1 + \beta \cdot \varepsilon_p)^{\prime}$$

The strain-rate dependency is described by a Cowper-Symonds law: $\sigma_e(\dot{\varepsilon}) = \sigma_e(\dot{0}) \left(1 + \frac{\dot{\varepsilon}}{C}\right)^{1/p}$ The values of the coefficients are: $\beta = 43$, n = 0.35, C = 10⁴ s⁻¹, p = 3.

4.3.4 Initial Conditions, Boundary Conditions

The initial velocity is 120, 176 and 266 m/s. The bar/target contact is frictionless.

4.3.5 Reference Results

After the real tests, the deformed bar length was measured, as well as the radius of the forward, rear and mid-length cross-sections:

Impact velocity [m/s]	Length after impact [mm]	Forward radius [mm]	Mid-length radius [mm]	Rear radius [mm]
0	16	4	4	4
120	15.3	-	-	-
176	14.6	4.8	4.1	4.0
266	13.3	5.5	4.2	4.0

4.3.6 LS-DYNA Model

The bar is meshed with default-formulation constant stress solid elements (see Fig. 3), 32 along its length and 8 along the radius.



Fig.3: Mesh of Taylor test bar.

Hourglass control type: default (standard LS-DYNA viscous form).

Material: type 24 *MAT_PIECEWISE_LINEAR_PLASTICITY (Cowper-Symonds law enabled).

The appropriate boundary conditions are applied on the symmetry planes of the quarter model.

The time step is determined automatically (default).

4.3.7 LS-DYNA Results - Comparison with Reference Results

Fig. 4 shows that the initial shockwave propagates along the bar in about 2.5 μ s, time when the axial velocity at the rear starts to decrease. It can be observed that the inertial transverse confinement effect leads to a propagation velocity not far from the one in a 3D medium (2.67 μ s, see Table 6).



Fig.4: Impact velocity: 120 m/s. Axial velocity measured along the bar axis.

Modium	Propagation velocity		Propagation delay [µs] for a compressive	
weatum	Formula	Value [m/s]	elastic shockwave along the bar: t = L / c	
1D	$c_{1D} = \sqrt{E/\rho}$	5172	3.09	
2D	$c_{2D} = \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho(1-v^2)}}$	5422	2.95	
3D	$c_{3D} = \sqrt{\frac{E(1-\nu)}{\rho(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}}$	6001	2.67	

Table 6: Theoretical propagation delays along the bar.

The dimensions of the deformed mesh (Fig. 5) differ from the measured values by less than 5%:

Impact	Dimension [mm]				
velocity [m/s]	Length or radius	Reference value (test)	LS-DYNA result	Relative error: (LSD. – Ref.) / Ref.	
	Length	15.3	15.130915	-1.11%	
120	Forward radius	-	4.389470	-	
	Mid-length radius	-	4.087443	-	
	Length	14.6	14.457560	-0.98%	
176	Forward radius	4.8	4.708169	-1.91%	
	Mid-length radius	4.1	4.173710	+1.80%	
266	Length	13.3	13.313659	+0.10%	
	Forward radius	5.5	5.332169	-3.05%	
	Mid-length radius	4.2	4.338679	+3.30%	

Table 7: Results of the bar impact test case.



Fig.5: Final deformed meshes. Effective plastic strain contours for v0 = 266 m/s.

The test case is validated.

4.4 Test Case 5: M42 screw preload

This test case will be presented only partially.

4.4.1 Description

A M42 stainless steel screw is preloaded by two methods:

- Initial penetration between the screw head and the washer,
- Uniaxial thermal contraction of a section.

We are interested in the resultant axial force in 4 cross-sections of the screw.

4.4.2 LS-DYNA Models



Fig.6: The two models for the screw preload test case.

The initial penetration between the screw head and the washer is managed by ***CONTACT_SURFACE_TO_SURFACE_INTERFERENCE**. The contact penalty stiffness is modulated through time by a curve that smoothly rises from 0 to 1 in 1 ms.

The thermally contracted section is assigned a material type ***MAT_021** = ***MAT_ORTHOTROPIC_ THERMAL** where the only non-zero thermal expansion coefficient is $\alpha_{XX} < 0$. The temperature rises smoothly from 0 to 1°C in 1 ms.

4.4.3 LS-DYNA Results - Comparison with Reference Results

In each cross-section, the resultant axial force is averaged on the range [1ms; 1.5ms].

For both models, the forces in the 4 cross-sections deviate from the mean force by less than 0.2%.

The desired preload can be obtained simply by scaling the interference depth or the product $\alpha_{_{XX}} \times \Delta T$.

When moving from Version R2 to Version R6.1.1 of LS-DYNA, the preload obtained in the thermal contraction model happened to be lower by 6%. The test case revealed that a bug had been corrected in the meantime:

- In R2, the axial thermal strain vs. temperature curve was identified as: $\varepsilon_{xx} = \ln(1 + \alpha_{xx} \times \Delta T)$
- In R6.1.1, it was identified as: $\varepsilon_{XX} = \exp(\alpha_{XX} \times \Delta T) 1$, which is the right formula for large strains.

Regrettably, the LS-DYNA support web site [8] only gives the following terse information:

"Fixed *MAT_021 and *MAT_023 thermal strain so that good for large strain."

A simple correction can be brought to R2 models so as to get the same preload with R6.1.1:

replace $(\alpha_{XX} \times \Delta T)_{old}$ with $(\alpha_{XX} \times \Delta T)_{new} = \ln[1 + \ln[1 + (\alpha_{XX} \times \Delta T)_{old}]]$.

4.5 Test Case 9: Oblique Drop of TN[®]17/2 Cask – Benchmark

This test case will be presented only briefly.

For additional information, refer to paper [9] issued during the 2011 European Conference.

A 1/3-scale mockup of the TN[®]17/2 cask underwent an oblique 9m drop onto a flat unyielding target. The impacted part of the mockup is the top-end shock absorber, basically a stainless steel casing filled with wooden blocks and reinforced with welded internal gussets.

The LS-DYNA model features:

- Material type ***MAT_126** = ***MAT_MODIFIED_HONEYCOMB** for woods (balsa and oak),
- Beams with material type ***MAT_100** = ***MAT_SPOTWELD** and a tensile/shear failure criterion.

As shown on Fig. 7, the correlation with test data in terms of maximum acceleration and final crushing height is very good (discrepancy below 5%).



Fig.7: Acceleration history and deformed shock absorber, for the oblique drop test case.

This complex test case confirms the validity of LS-DYNA for modeling the nonlinear behavior of complex systems in terms of global behavior.

More generally, benchmarking cask models against real drop tests makes it possible to:

- Validate the simultaneous modeling of all phenomena at stake during cask drop tests,
- Validate the modeling options and the modeling assumptions.

5 Summary

It is necessary to validate the computer codes in their application fields so as to obtain a good level of confidence in the performed calculations.

In addition, in order to demonstrate the compliance of casks with safety regulations, it is required to validate the computer codes being utilized to predict the physical phenomena at stake.

AREVA TN has successfully developed a qualification process of explicit LS-DYNA based on a variety of test cases that benchmark the code firstly against simple reference results in order to validate the basic physical phenomena of interest, and secondly against complex real test results in order to validate the code considering simultaneously all the phenomena that are present during cask drop tests and the associated modeling options and assumptions.

A work began 4 years ago with the aim of validating the implicit version of LS-DYNA.

6 Literature

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