Testing Services Overview

API RP19B Testing
Advanced Testing
Operational Testing
The American Petroleum Institute (API) publishes the Recommended Practice for the Evaluation of Well Perforators (RP19B). These testing recommendations are developed through working groups of industry-recognized subject matter experts, comprised of operators and manufacturers, and is updated periodically to reflect advancements in technology and product application.

Jet Research Center conducts perforating system and shaped charge testing that follows these minimum recommended guidelines and can provide all aspects of current API RP19B testing services.

Section 1: Perforating System Testing at Ambient Condition
Section 2: Shaped Charge Performance in Stressed Sandstone
Section 3: Perforating System Testing at Elevated Temperature
Section 4: Shaped Charge Flow Performance at Reservoir Condition
Section 5: Perforating System Testing for Debris
Section 6: Perforating System Testing for Maximum Gun Swell
API RP19B Section 1

The API RP19B Section I test is used to evaluate shot-to-shot interference of shaped charges, casing hole size, and penetration into an unstressed cement target at a minimum compressive strength. The testing conditions and results are documented on a standard reporting template. The casing size is matched to the perforating gun diameter, and the surrounding cement target is matched to the expected depth of penetration. This testing is available as witnessed or unwitnessed. These tests are eligible to be registered and made public through API.

Test results include:
- Penetration depth into an unstressed cement target
- Casing hole diameter
- Casing burr height (protrusion from the inside casing or tubing wall)
API RP19B Section 2

The API RP19B Section 2 test is designed to evaluate a shaped charge’s performance in stressed Berea sandstone. The sandstone target is cored to a diameter of 4 in. or 7 in. depending upon the shaped charge’s explosive mass. The core is placed inside a specially designed test fixture where a uniform confining stress is applied to the core. The core is perforated with a single shaped charge through a representative gun, scallop, wellbore fluid gap, casing plate, and a simulated cement sheath.

Test results include:
• Penetration depth into a stressed Berea target
• Faceplate (casing) hole diameter
API RP19B Section 3

The API RP19B Section 3 test is used to evaluate perforating system performance at elevated temperatures. This test characterizes a system’s function, reliability, and performance degradation (if any) at elevated temperature. These tests are typically conducted in pairs—one at elevated temperature and a second test at ambient temperature to use as a benchmark. Tests may incorporate elevated pressure to further verify the operational rating of the system.

Test results include:
- Penetration depth into steel target of each shaped charge
- Faceplate (casing) hole diameter from each shaped charge
- Faceplate hole roundness
API RP19B Section 4

The API RP19B Section 4 test is designed to provide a measure of flow performance of a perforation into stressed rock simulating reservoir-specific downhole conditions. This test allows for reservoir or analog rock to be used and reservoir pressure applied with a desired wellbore pressure differential (underbalance/overbalance). This test method most accurately evaluates downhole perforator performance.

Test results include:
- Total core penetration depth into stressed reservoir rock at downhole conditions
- Debris-free penetration depth into stressed reservoir rock at downhole conditions
- Faceplate (casing) hole diameter
- Inflow performance of perforation tunnel
API RP19B Section 5

The API RP19B Section 5 test is designed to quantify the amount of debris that exits a perforating gun upon detonation, and also identify and quantify the debris remaining in the gun that is small enough to potentially exit the gun assembly when removing the system from the well. The test consists of detonating a perforating gun assembly, then collecting the produced and recovered debris. The debris is sorted and quantified by debris particle size.

Test results include:
- Volume and weight of debris from detonation
- Volume and weight of debris from rolled gun assembly
- Debris particle size distribution through eight sieve sizes
API RP19B Section 6

The API RP19B Section 6 test is designed to quantify the amount of gun body swell for a given perforating system. The test consists of a fully loaded perforating gun assembly of no less than 4 ft in length being detonated inside a designated casing section. The detonated gun assembly is then measured and recorded. The test can be conducted dry or in fluid.

Test results include:
- Maximum preshot OD
- Maximum post-shot OD
- Average perforator swell %
To better satisfy our clients’ testing needs and to continue our development of industry-leading perforating solutions that maximize reservoir inflow performance, JRC has expanded its testing capabilities with an award-winning Advanced Perforating Flow Laboratory. The lab houses multiple leading-edge testing vessels with inflow monitoring and evaluation technologies allowing the study of deviated and horizontal completions, high- and ultrahigh-temperature reservoirs, high- and ultrahigh-pressure reservoirs, unconsolidated reservoirs, oil and gas reservoirs, extreme pressure differentials, and chemical intervention treatments. No other facility in the world comes close to the advanced capabilities of the JRC APFL.

The Jet Research Center Advanced Perforating Flow Laboratory (APFL) was awarded the Hart Energy’s Meritorious Award for Engineering Innovation in 2016.
Enhanced API 19B Section 2, 4 Testing

Conventional API RP19B Section 2 and 4 testing uses nominal confining pressures. Using the full capabilities of the Advanced Perforating Flow Laboratory (APFL) at Jet Research Center, perforator performance can now be simulated at exact downhole conditions—matching true reservoir and wellbore pressures, confinement stress, perforation orientation, and wellbore temperature. The capabilities of our advanced testing vessels, testing techniques, and instrumentation are truly unmatched within the oil and gas industry. Our advanced vessel testing capabilities include:

180° Rotating Perforation Flow Vessel
- Maximum pore pressure: 5,000 psi
- Maximum overburden: 10,000 psi
- Temperature: Ambient
- Core size: 9 in. x 48 in. (22.9 cm x 121.9 cm)

High-Pressure /Ultrahigh-Temperature Flow Vessels
- Maximum pore pressure: 20,000 psi
- Maximum overburden: 25,000 psi
- Temperature: 400°F/204°C
- Core size: 12 in. x 48 in. (22.9 cm x 121.9 cm)

Ultrahigh Pressure Perforation Flow Vessel
- Maximum pore pressure: 40,000 psi
- Maximum overburden: 50,000 psi
- Temperature: Ambient
- Core size: 9 in. x 48 in. (30.5 cm x 121.9 cm)

API Section 2 Plus

Plus testing is an advancement to traditional API RP19B Section 2 testing. It is a collaborative effort between the JRC APFL team, our clients' needs, and the specific perforating scenario. These tests are designed to control the dynamic-pressure response to better match the wellbore-pressure transients created during perforating. Through better testing and evaluation of dynamic underbalance/overbalance pressures, these tests can help identify the optimum perforating system and evaluate how dynamic pressures can significantly influence perforation tunnel geometry.

Advanced Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan

Allows unmatched inflow analysis and provides advanced understanding of perforation tunnel geometry and potential flow profile. This technology can also be useful for component and material investigation and for critical quality control.
Operational Testing

Well completions and interventions can present unique challenges. Making the best operational decisions sometimes requires definitive answers on how a perforating or cutter system may perform, sometimes in nonstandard conditions. JRC is positioned to deliver these answers with a dedicated team of testing professionals. We’re ready to perform fast, accurate, and representative testing to provide the answers needed for making the best operational decisions.

Whether it is identifying perforator performance through multiple casing strings, understanding perforator penetration through unique completion jewelry, gun swell in a dry gas well for a through-tubing recompletion, performance degradation due to higher than anticipated reservoir temperature, or casing cutter performance - JRC has the expertise to deliver the answers you need!
Coupon Performance Evaluation

This test series includes three separate shaped charge detonations, allowing for statistical certainty of the tested charge performance. Coupon tests are used to understand relative penetration, but mainly are used to identify casing-hole size and charge performance consistency. Multiple casing strings can be evaluated with this type of test. Tests are performed using L-80 or customer-specified coupon targets.

Thermal Testing
Perforating Component or Equipment Component

Thermal testing is important to evaluate thermal degradation of perforating components and systems. Each test is specifically designed to achieve the specific data point required, whether it is a single component pass/fail or full system performance with swell and penetration at extended temperatures. Our capability for thermal explosive testing includes:

3 ovens rated to: 700°F/371°C, 26 in. x 20 in. x 36 in. capacity
1 oven rated to: 600°F/315°C, 12 in. x 12 in. x 120 in. capacity
**System Performance Evaluation – Barrel Test**

A barrel test is performed by detonating a loaded perforating gun assembly inside a cemented segment of casing placed inside a standard steel barrel. This single test is commonly performed to evaluate shot-to-shot interference, obtain casing hole and gun scallop size from all phasing planes, casing and gun burr height, and maximum gun swell. Penetration is not measured during a barrel test. Tests are performed using L-80 or customer-specified casing. Multiple casing strings can be evaluated. The test setup is similar to a Section I test, but the outer cement target is minimized since penetration results are not obtained, saving time and reducing testing cost.

**Drop Testing**

System survivability test from shock or drop. Drop test is typically performed for equipment survival. Test is a 30-ft drop onto a steel plate.

**Pipe Recovery (Jet Cutter/Drill Collar Severing Tool)**

Testing of any jet cutter or Drill Collar Severing Tool can be performed in various environmental conditions (tension, compression, fluids, etc.) These tests are designed to evaluate a cut or no-cut for a single environmental condition.

**Customized Test**

We’re ready to evaluate and develop a custom energetics testing program that suits any need.
Mechanical System Testing (Pressure/Temperature)

Mechanical system testing is an integral step in qualifying any downhole tool or perforating system prior to operating in a wellbore. JRC has extensive testing capabilities that provide the foundation for developing and qualifying industry-leading technologies for the most extreme environmental conditions.

JRC currently houses four separate test vessels capable of pressure and temperature testing simultaneously and values beyond ultra-HPHT ratings.

These vessels are capable of evaluating explosive and nonexplosive systems.

> Ultra-HPHT Vessel
  • 50,000 psi
  • 600°F
  • 10-in. ID X 25 ft deep

Ultra-HP Vessel
  • 30,000 psi
  • 6-in. ID X 15 ft deep

Ultra-HPHT Vessel
  • 40,000 psi
  • 500°F
  • 6-in. ID X 8 ft deep

HPHT Vessel
  • 20,000 psi
  • 400°F
  • 7.5-in. ID X 13.5 ft deep