

## FINISHING AREA QUALITY CONTROL

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The Finishing Area Quality Control section acts as a vital junction between manufacturing and the customer. Each day the quality control section reviews thousands of sheets of film to assure only first-quality product is shipped to our customers. This "nerve center" of our Brevard manufacturing operations has a dual responsibility: constantly assessing the quality of finished product prior to shipment; and analyzing and communicating potential quality problems to the various manufacturing areas.

The basic Quality Control organization is made up of two parts which work together: the shift quality groups whose function is to monitor our quality performance on an around-the-clock basis; and the day quality group whose function is to assist in specific problems, material disposition and the overall coordination of the Finishing quality programs and effort. This includes maintaining up-to-date procedures, standards, and quality exhibits.

The effectiveness and efficiency of our Quality Control section depends greatly upon the skills, training, and experience of our Quality Control operators or checkers. Beginning with formal classroom training and continuing through phases of on-job training and experience, the quality checker becomes a highly trained individual who is an expert in defect recognition, x-ray film finishing and photographic quality. A working knowledge of the three manufacturing areas and their process relationships is essential to him.

All samples taken by Finishing operators are sent to the Control Laboratory for processing and special tests. These processed films are returned to the quality control operator for his evaluation. The sheets of film may be routine samples, processed as specified, or a variety of retest or special test samples. One such special test at the operator's request is the practical exposure or "phantom shot." These are actual radiographs produced in our laboratories with the use of special test equipment which provide near duplication of what the radiologist could expect.

The quality checker may routinely release material based on his review and interpretation of samples, or he may make various recommendations based on his findings and judgement. He, along with his supervision, may elect to release the material, specify further testing, or, if the material is defective, they may elect to scrap. Theirs is a demanding job requiring accuracy, training and experience.

## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE



*L. T. Ashe (left) and Ronnie Henson, Laboratory Technicians deliver processed Finishing samples to the pick-up area where they are collected and read by the Quality Checkers.*



*Lamar Grimmitt, Finishing Service Operator working in Re-leasing. As soon as all quality tests are completed, our photographic materials are released to shipping to be sent to our customers and warehouses.*



*Art Bishop, Finishing Quality Checker checks processed samples to assure finished product quality.*