

In 1983 the AAPM published “A protocol for the determination of absorbed dose from high-energy photon and electron beams,” known simply as TG-21. In 1994 TG-39 was published, extending the use of TG-21 to plane-parallel chambers. Both protocols were based on ionization chambers having air kerma (exposure) calibration factors for ^{60}Co gamma rays. In anticipation of ^{60}Co absorbed dose to water calibration factors for ionization chambers becoming available the AAPM undertook to prepare a new protocol for calibrating high energy photon and electron beams, based on absorbed dose calibrated ionization chambers. This symposium introduces the new protocol. The basic formalism will be presented and a brief outline of how to implement the protocol will be given. Preliminary results and comparisons with TG-21 will be introduced.

Herb Attix’s work greatly influenced all AAPM calibration protocols. He was an active member of TG-39 and made important initial calibrations to the work of TG-51. He had the ability to express complex formalism and formula concisely and elegantly. His influence can be seen throughout the protocol. Task group is honored to dedicate this symposium to his memory.