



EF European Federation for
Non-Destructive Testing

NDT FORUM FOR AEROSPACE NDT BOARDS

An overview of the activities of the
Forum for National
Aerospace NDT Boards

ANDTBF/04; Rev: 2009-12-08



What is a NANDTB?

- EASA regulations part 145 (covering NDT in maintenance) mandates compliance with EN 4179 : 2000 (though EASA has confirmed that the 2005 version is recognised as the current standard)
- EN 4179 refers to National Aerospace NDT Boards (NANDTB), detailing roles and responsibilities ...
- ... and including the following definition:
 - A NANDTB is “An independent national aerospace organization representing a nation's aerospace industry that is chartered by the participating prime contractors and recognized by the nation’s regulatory agencies to provide or support NDT qualification, examination, and/or certification services in accordance with this standard”.



What is the role of NANDTB?

- To provide or support NDT qualification and examination services ...
- which may include participation in certification and, specifically:
 - “administer procedures for qualification and certification according to EN 4179”,
 - “in conjunction with the Employer, to recognise equivalencies of qualification and certification”, and
 - “provide guidance on facilities for NDT training and course outlines, as well as on examination questions and procedures”



The Responsible Level 3

- The procedures of the NANDTB shall clearly define what role and tasks, as applicable, are to be performed by the Responsible Level 3.
- The employer shall designate a Responsible Level 3 in accordance with EN 4179 paragraph 4.5.
- The Responsible Level 3 is designated by the employer to ensure the requirements of this standard and NANDTB procedures are met and to act on behalf of the employer for those tasks designated in EN 4179 for the Responsible Level 3.



Why is a Forum necessary?

- With such a wide remit, and without some form of harmonising influence, it was considered that NANDTB would address the requirements of EN 4179 in diverse ways
- A Forum would provide opportunities for discussion between Boards on the best common approach to achieve the intent of the EN 4179 requirement
- It would also provide information and advice to all participants on how a NANDTB could best serve its national industry



When was the Forum set up?

- An open meeting of interested parties was held during the 9th European Conference on NDT in Berlin on 29th September 2006
- It was unanimously agreed to establish a European Forum for NANDTB under the umbrella of the European Federation for NDT (EFNDT)
- The inaugural meeting of the Forum was convened in Paris during December 2006 and attended by 40 individuals representing 16 NANDTB



Aims and objectives

- The Forum provides
 - Opportunities to discuss matters of common interest to all NANDTB;
 - an advisory body for new NANDTB implementing applicable regulations and standards;
 - harmonisation of methodology for the control of aerospace NDT qualification and certification provided at the national level;
 - formal representation of the common concerns of the ANDTBF members to EASA;
 - formal input to rule making and standards making processes



Aims and objectives

- The Forum has
 - agreed common specifications for qualifying agencies providing training and examinations at the national level;
 - initiated a mechanism for interpretation in cases of dispute regarding the implementation of applicable regulations and standards;
 - Established lines of communication with
 - EASA on rulemaking
 - and ASD-Stan on interpretation and implementation of EN 4179
 - NADCAP on recognition of qualifications under control of NANDTB



Aims and objectives

- The Forum will
 - Develop and aerospace specific training syllabus for adoption by all members and implementation at the national level;
 - Disseminate information on the international level, through NDT journals and websites;
 - encourage multilateral recognition
 - between its members,
 - with organisations having similar aims, e.g., IAQG, and
 - with any other pertinent body in order to benefit the aerospace industry and minimise duplication and multiple audit.



Representation

- In order to obtain the widest possible representation, the ANDTBF encourages NANDTB or similar organisations outside of the European Union and Free Trade area to apply for membership or otherwise to seek involvement in it's activities.



Constitution

- The ANDTBF is comprised of two duly nominated representatives of each of the NANDTB members.
- The 21 Boards and additional observers in current membership are listed in document reference [ANDTB/02](#).
- Such other bodies as the ANDTBF may determine will be invited to join, or to attend meetings of the Forum with Observer status.



Constitution

- The chairman and vice chairman are elected from the members representatives for a period of office of two years
 - Presently Jon Biddulph (UK), and
 - Rudolf Henrich (Germany)
- The secretary is appointed by the Forum for a term of office of two years
 - Presently John Thompson (UK)
john.thompson@bindt.org



Membership

- Australia
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Czech Rep
 - Denmark*
 - EASA (observer)
 - FAA (observer)
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Iceland
 - Ireland
 - Italy
 - Luxemburg (observer)
 - Malta (observer)
 - Netherlands
 - Norway*
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Russia
 - Serbia (observer)
 - Slovakia (observer)
 - Slovenia (observer)
 - Spain
 - Sweden*
 - Switzerland
 - Turkey
 - UK
- *Scandinavian Board



Membership

- Any organisation wishing to apply for membership of the ANDTBF, and to nominate a representative to attend meetings, should contact the Secretary to the ANDTBF through www.efndt.org
- The secretary will submit the application for membership to the next meeting of the Forum



Method of working

- The Forum has at least one ordinary meeting per year.
- Approval of changes to the constitution, terms of reference and method of working, and invitations for other bodies to be represented on the ANDTBF require a majority of not less than three fourths of those present at an ordinary meeting;
- Other matters are decided by a simple majority.
- The ANDTBF is empowered to set up working groups and committees, establish their terms of reference and set out the procedures whereby they report to the ANDTBF.



Action plan

- The Board has an agreed an action plan, which has continues to evolve.
- The plan includes a number of objectives in line with the aims of the Forum.
- A convener is responsible for delivery of the agreed outcomes ...



EASA Regulations

- Objectives:
 - Establish EASA's intentions and timescales for review and update of EASA AMC 145 (which refers to EN 4179 : 2000).
 - Request that EASA harmonise or combine EASA Regulations parts 21 and 145.
 - Offer to assist with or contribute to the work involved
- Status:
 - EASA will amend part 145 by end of 2nd quarter in 2010.



Harmonisation of operations

- Objectives
 - Draft ANDTBF policy document proposing harmonisation of the operations of the national Boards.
 - Propose Outside Agency audit criteria.
 - Recommend policy on recognition of approvals issued under the control of other national Boards.
- Status:
 - Achieved



Interpretation of standards

- Objectives:
 - Provide a mechanism for interpretation of applicable qualification standards, e.g. EN 4179 and EN 473, for the aerospace sector.
 - Make recommendations concerning experience – reductions in duration (EN 4179 Table 2 Note a).
 - Make recommendations concerning practical examination content (initial and recertification)
- Status:
 - Established a formal liaison with ASD-Stan



Conferences

- Objective:
 - Will manage a half day aerospace NDT personnel qualification / certification session within the next European Conference on NDT in Moscow, 2010



Training Syllabuses

- Objectives:
 - Develop an aerospace specific training syllabus covering five principle NDT methods and aerospace product technology
- Status:
 - Scope of work is initially limited to UT and product technology and a draft syllabus is to be tabled at the 8th meeting (June 2010)



Conclusions

- The Forum has made an excellent start with an action plan that addresses it's aims and objectives
- Meetings are well attended, and the Forum is well supported
- The forum has opened good communication channels between national boards
- The EFNDT has provided a space on it's website for the work of the Forum to be publicised
- Further information at www.efndt.org or by email request to John.Thompson@bindt.org