

**Report of the Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards (ANDTBF)
covering the twelve months to 31st December 2009 (approved by postal ballot
and uploaded 2010-09-29)**

Introduction

The European Federation for NDT (EFNDT) provides administrative support and web space for the ANDTBF, and the ANDTBF documents and minutes of meetings are published at www.efndt.org

The ANDTBF held its inaugural meeting in Paris on 1st December 2006, at which time the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Forum was approved. Since the inaugural meeting, the Forum has met on six further occasions, in Istanbul (July 2007), Rome (November 2007), Amsterdam (June 2008), Furthe, Germany (December 2008), Berlin (June 2009) and Basel (December 2009).

Membership

At 31st December 2009 the membership of the forum was representative of the following 23 National Aerospace NDT Boards:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Rep, Denmark*⁰, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway*⁰, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden*⁰, Switzerland, Russia, Turkey, and the UK

Meetings were also attended by observers from countries where no NANDTB had yet been formed, as well as by representatives of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). The membership of the Forum is listed, together with nominated representatives of member Boards, in ANDTBF/02.

Aims and objectives

The ANDTBF has the following aims and objectives in relation to applicable EASA regulations and EN 4179:

- ❑ provide a forum for discussion of matters of common interest to all NANDTB;
- ❑ harmonisation of methodology for the control of aerospace NDT training and EN 4179 qualification examinations provided at the various national levels;
- ❑ provide formal representation of the common concerns of the ANDTBF members to EASA;
- ❑ act as an advisory body for new NANDTB implementing applicable regulations and standards;
- ❑ agree common specifications for outside agencies providing training and qualification examinations at the various national levels;
- ❑ develop a common training and examination syllabus for the five principle NDT methods as applied in the aerospace sector;

- provide a mechanism for interpretation in cases of dispute regarding the implementation of applicable regulations and standards.

The ANDTBF will seek 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 to minimise duplication and multiple audit.

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 its activities.

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, e-mail: john.thompson@bindt.org

Applications for full or observer membership should be in the form of a letter documenting the status of the organisation applying for membership of the Forum. Representatives of not less than three members of the Forum are appointed to review each membership application. They will submit comments and recommendations regarding acceptance to the next formal meeting of the Forum, which will consider and accept or reject the request for membership.

Methods of working

A meeting of the ANDTBF is convened at least once per year. Matters to be decided at a meeting are supported by written documentation issued in advance of the meeting, and the quorum for a meeting is one third of the current voting members. In the event that a vote is necessary, representative members have one vote for each country represented on a National Board. Co-opted members do not vote.

Approval of changes to the constitution, terms of reference and method of working, and invitations for other bodies to be represented on the ANDTBF are decided by a majority of not less than three fourths of those present at an ordinary meeting. Other matters are decided by a simple majority. Any five voting members of the ANDTBF may request a special meeting at any time by written notification to the Secretary.

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.

Neither the ANDTBF, its Chairman, individual members, the bodies they represent, nor any working party or sub-committee appointed by the ANDTBF, carry any financial liability for any scheme operated for the ANDTBF, and the Forum members are not liable for any damages resulting, or claimed to have resulted, from decisions of personnel implementing the scheme, or for any consequential loss arising out of the operation of the scheme.

The ANDTBF publishes an annual report covering its activities.

Progress during the reporting period

European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

EASA has attended and made significant input to both of the meetings of the Forum held in 2009. Although EASA is not in a position to 'recognise' or approve any NANDTB or the ANDTBF, EASA and the ANDTBF have agreed to cooperate on NDT matters.

Training syllabuses

It was agreed to set up a WG comprising representatives of France, Germany Switzerland and the UK, convened by a representative from the German Board, who would develop a UT (aerospace specific) syllabus (at three levels) together with a syllabus covering aerospace Product Technology, presenting their work to the June 2010 meeting.

Interpretation of EN 4179 criteria

ASD-Stan, the organisation responsible for the development and maintenance of EN 4179, has agreed in principle that the Forum is the most appropriate body in Europe to consider requests for interpretation of the standard. ASD-Stan has agreed to accept the recommendations of the Forum on any future revision of EN 4179.

Dissemination of information

With the assistance of the German Society for NDT (DGZfP), the Forum has established and maintains space on the EFNDT web site for the purpose of informing its members, other NDT professionals and the general public about the work of the Forum. This space also provides opportunities to establish links to the individual members' own websites. It was also proposed to encourage members to provide links from their own to the Forum's web pages at www.efndt.org.