

**Report of the Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards (ANDTBF)  
covering the twelve months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 (approved 2009-06-23).**

## **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](http://www.efndt.org)

The ANDTBF held its inaugural meeting in Paris on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 four further occasions, in Istanbul (29<sup>th</sup> July 2007), Rome (15<sup>th</sup> November 2007), Amsterdam (6<sup>th</sup> June 2008), and Furthe, Germany (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008).

## **Membership**

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 the membership of the forum was representative of 23 National Aerospace NDT Boards and 5 observers from countries where no NANDTB had yet been formed. 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;
- ❑ agree and promote a common format for company written practices in conformance with EN 4179;
- ❑ 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 it's 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, c/o Certification Services, British Institute of NDT, 1 Spencer Parade, Northampton NN1 5AA, United Kingdom. E-mail: [john.thompson@bindt.org](mailto:john.thompson@bindt.org)

Applications for membership should be in the form of a letter, supported by a documented procedure for the assessment and approval of Qualifying Agencies. Representatives of not less than three members of the Forum are appointed to review each membership application and supporting procedure(s) and 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 is invited to attend each meeting of the Forum, and it did attend the second meeting in Istanbul during 2007, but failed to attend either of the meetings held during 2008. In a response to a series of written questions from the ANDTBF, the Agency stated that it is not in a position to 'recognise' or approve any NANDTB or the ANDTBF, since there are no provisions for such approval in the Basic Regulation 216/2008. Nevertheless, EASA and the ANDTBF could mutually agree to cooperate on NDT matters. Several interesting aspects would be considered:

- which standards would be considered as equivalent to EN4179 in the future
- how to follow and accept new versions of already "accepted standards".

Subsequently the Chairman of the Forum led a delegation at a meeting with EASA on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008, at which a number of questions and concerns, previously expressed in a letter to EASA, were discussed. These were reported in the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum meeting held in Amsterdam.

### Nadcap

One of the objectives of the Forum had been to Review Nadcap activities, establishing any crossover with NANDTB activities, and establish lines of communication with Nadcap (whilst preserving the autonomy of Boards at the national level).

It was agreed that lines of communication already exist with the national aerospace NDT boards since manufacturing primes which 'charter' the national boards also attend the NANDT Board forum.

### Harmonisation of the operations of Forum members

A final report and document for approval and publication was submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 Forum meeting in Germany by Mr. Roman Wottle (Austria), was introduced by the Secretary, who offered it for acceptance. A motion to approve the document was proposed and seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed to its publication (as ANDTBF/05) and implementation.

### **New Work Items agreed for 2009**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> December meeting of the Forum agreed three New Work Item Proposals (NWIP):

#### Training syllabuses

Harmonising aerospace specific training in all member states across the sector through the development and publication of a syllabus, followed up with NANDTB audits of qualifying agencies to ensure the consistent implementation of the syllabuses in training programmes.

It was agreed to set up a WG comprising representatives of Italy, France, Switzerland and Germany, under the governorship of a convener from Germany, who would define the scope of the work, including timelines for completion of the various phases (NDT Methods), a report of which would be presented to the next meeting together with a completed draft syllabus covering aerospace Product Technology.

#### Dissemination of information

With the assistance of the German Society for NDT (DGZfP), the Forum had established pages 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. These pages also provided 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](http://www.efndt.org).

#### Raising the profile of the Forum

It was suggested that the existence and the work of the national aerospace NDT boards, as well as the Forum itself, needed to be better publicized, and that this could be achieved by regular submissions for publication in national journals and on national websites, as well as on the web pages of the Forum itself.