
ANDTBF/05 Harmonisation of the Operations of Member NANDTB

Introduction

The present document provides ANDTBF guidance that, when adopted, will lead to closer harmonisation of the operations of the various National Aerospace NDT Boards in membership of The Forum.

References

EN 4179 as revised	Aerospace series – qualification and approval of NDT personnel
NAS 410 as revised	NAS Certification & Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel
EASA AMC 145.A.30 (f)	[NDT] Personnel requirements – Acceptable means of compliance

Status

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Guidance

EN 4179 defines a National Aerospace NDT Board (NANDTB) as 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 and examination services in accordance with this standard.”

In European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) parlance, the national regulatory agencies are termed the Competent Authority (CA) or National Aviation Authority (NAA); both are referred to hereafter as the ‘Authority’. An Authority is established under EC Regulation 216/2008 in each of the European Union member states, and it is through the national implementation of this regulation that EASA recognizes the Authority. In order to satisfy the EN 4179 / NAS 410 requirement that the NANDTB is recognised by the national regulatory agency, the ANDTBF suggests that the Authority should be an observer member of the NANDTB.

Information about the NANDTB should be disclosed on its homepage, or on the home page of the Forum, in the national and/or the English language. Such information should comprise of a list of Board Members, the written constitution and terms of reference of the Board, confirmation of recognition by the national Authority, a list of approved NDT personnel qualifying agencies, and the list of procedures and specifications published by the Board, with information on how these may be obtained.

The NANDTB should provide guidance to qualifying agencies under its control on the content of certificates of qualification (training and examinations). Examples of certificates in the English and/or national language should be published on the Board’s homepage.

The NANDTB’s statutes or other documentation should include, as a minimum:

- The constitution, terms of reference and methods of working of the Board;
- The aims and objectives of the Board;
- Rules of procedure for voting and agreeing resolutions;
- The criteria to be met by member organisations;
- The procedure for applying for membership and election of member organisations, together with rules regarding termination of membership;
- The names and status of the organisations presently in membership of the Board (e.g. prime contractor, national NDT society, National Authority, operator, maintenance organisation, etc.);

- Duties, responsibilities and tenure of appointed officers (e.g. chairman, secretary, convener of working groups);
- The method(s) by which the NANDTB controls qualification examinations administered by internal and external qualifying agencies;
- Qualifying Agency criteria, including the audit and approval process;
- Policy on recognition of qualifying agency approvals, and NDT personnel certification or approvals issued under the control of other national Boards;
- Interpretations (acceptable means of compliance) of EN 4179 / NAS 410.

Outside Agency Audit Criteria

There are a variety of services which an Outside Agency may offer an employer, such as training, examination, approving procedures, development of a written practice, technical audits and others. Initially, the NANDTB should develop and publish general audit criteria for organisations providing training and examinations in accordance of EN4179 / NAS 410.

Organisations in membership of the European Forum for NANDTB shall make provision for the assessment and approval of Qualifying Agencies providing training and/or examination services within the territory of the National Board.

NANDTB will appoint approved assessor(s) satisfying the criteria of EN 4179 / NAS 410, to audit applicant organisations in line with the following procedure and criteria.

1. Review of quality documentation covering the qualification of aerospace NDT personnel meeting the requirements of the accreditation criteria.
 - a) Outside Agency Quality system documents and procedures
 - b) Availability of codes, standards and specifications, including the direct client's written practice

NOTE: The outside agency must take into account whether the direct client is, in turn, required to satisfy the requirements of a prime contractor's written practice, or whether the direct client is free to develop its own written practice that will be submitted for acceptance by a prime contractor.
 - c) Appropriate training material and reference texts, relevant to the NDT procedures, processes and product tested by the client.
 - d) Review of written practices provided under Level 3 service

NOTE: when the organisation provides a Level 3 service to develop written practices for the client, the assessor will select and review a minimum of three separate written practices developed by the audited organisation for different clients, and confirm that these satisfactorily address the EN 4179 / NAS 410 criteria.
2. Contract review, ensuring clients' requirements are fully specified, recorded and understood by the Qualifying Agency.
3. Control of Indirect Client supplied product (documentation, specifications, procedures, equipment, examination facilities and appropriate practical specimens)
4. Training and examination resources (ensuring that they are relevant and appropriate to the Indirect Client's NDT equipment, processes, and products)
 - a) Training curricula/syllabuses and course notes for students
 - b) Infrastructure
 - c) NDT Equipment
 - d) Specimens

NOTE: Qualifying Agencies providing NDT training should be assessed for conformance with CEN ISO/TR 25108 : 2006, Non-destructive testing – Guidelines for NDT personnel training organisations (ISO/TR 25107:2006)
5. Appointment of appropriately qualified and experienced training and examination staff
6. Confidentiality, impartiality and security

7. Compilation of written specific and practical examinations appropriate to scope (relevant to the Indirect Client's products, NDT procedures and processes)
8. Examination marking and grading (in accordance with EN 4179 / NAS 410)
9. Records (of Level 3 service provision, training and examination)
10. Issue of training and examination reports and certificates
11. Contract delivery (review of services provided against the contract)
12. In the event of a finding which has implications concerning safety, or product integrity, the assessor will immediately notify the NANDTB of the finding and corrective action to be taken.

These criteria may be expanded to cover other agency services if required.

The audit of qualifying agencies may be performed by the NANDTB, or by the national NDT society if the NANDTB is a committee of such society and this is stated in the rules of procedure.

Recognition of Approvals

Certificates of qualification issued by Qualifying Agencies under the control of other national boards should be recognized with no additional audit as long as the board itself fulfils the minimum requirements as outlined in the *ANDTBF policy document addressing harmonisation of the operation of the National Boards in membership of the Forum*

The acceptance of training and qualification examinations where a NANDTB has not assessed and approved a Qualifying Agency is in the responsibility of the employer (or the responsible Level 3).