

**EFNDT/CEC/P/05-006**

06-09-2005

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**AGREEMENT FOR EFNDT MULTILATERAL  
RECOGNITION OF NDT PERSONNEL  
CERTIFICATION SCHEMES**

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This revision incorporates minor amendments that enable the MRA to be administered by the EFNDT Certification Executive Committee (CEC). This method of working was approved in principle by the EFNDT Board of Directors (BoD) at a meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> April 2005 . The present draft is approved by the CEC and submitted for final approval by BoD.

## **1. OBJECTIVES**

1.1. The objectives of this Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA) are to:

- 1.1.1. promote harmonisation of the personnel certification schemes operated by Certification Bodies nominated by the national NDT societies in full or associate membership of the European Federation for NDT (EFNDT).
- 1.1.2. facilitate world wide recognition and acceptance of certificates of competence conforming to applicable certification standards and issued to NDT personnel by the bodies referred to in 1.1.1 above.

## **2. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

The Parties to the Agreement are the national NDT Societies which are in current membership of the EFNDT and which have endorsed the agreement by signature of the declaration given in Schedule 1 (see Annex 1).

## **3. OBLIGATIONS**

3.1. Each Party to the Agreement shall :

- 3.1.1. commit itself to the pursuance of the objectives of the Agreement;
- 3.1.2. recognise those Personnel Certification Schemes which have been accepted and registered by the European Federation for NDT as meeting criteria set out in the agreement;
- 3.1.3. assist other parties in their efforts to give a clear overview of the certification activities in its own country;
- 3.1.4. provide other parties with non-confidential information on the operation of its certification scheme(s), and
- 3.1.5. consult with the governing boards and/or management committees of their nominated Certification Bodies.

## **4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

- 4.1. The Agreement shall be administered by the EFNDT Certification Executive Committee (CEC) which has assigned the practical responsibility for reviewing applications for registration to the Secretary of the Committee. Having reviewed and confirmed that an application is in compliance with the terms of the Agreement, the Secretary will present it to the next meeting of the CEC with recommendations regarding acceptance and registration
- 4.2. EFNDT BoD will have final responsibility for approving the MRA, and will be presented at each of its meetings with a brief report on registrations approved by the CEC.
- 4.3. Any complaints or appeals received will be referred to the EFNDT CEC for resolution.

## 5. PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION

### 5.1. Criteria for Recognition by EFNDT

5.1.1. A Certification Body seeking recognition of its Certification Scheme under this Agreement shall meet the following criteria:-

- 5.1.1.1. managed or nominated by a National NDT Society, in current full or associate membership of EFNDT, which is a Party to this Agreement  
or
- 5.1.1.2. managed or nominated by the ICNDT member National NDT Society of the country in which the Certification Body is based,  
and
- 5.1.1.3. be in compliance with ISO/IEC 17024\* (Conformity Assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons) and issuing certification in conformance with EN 473 (General principles for qualification and certification of NDT personnel) or ISO 9712 (Non-Destructive Testing - Qualification and Certification of Personnel).
- 5.1.1.4. has signed an undertaking to comply with requirements of the Code of Practice for certification bodies (doc. EFNDT/CEC/C/05-002)  
and
- 5.1.1.5. be acceptable to a quorate meeting of the Certification Executive Committee.

*\* Note 1: Until 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006, conformance with EN 45013 is an acceptable alternative. In the event of difficulty, EFNDT will consider this on a case by case basis.*

5.1.2. Compliance with the above criteria shall be demonstrated by:

- 5.1.2.1. accreditation by a body in membership of European Accreditation (EA) and which is signatory to the EA Multilateral Recognition Agreement for personnel certification, or
- 5.1.2.2. accreditation by a body which is an Associate Member of the EA and is signatory to a bilateral Mutual Recognition Agreement with EA on personnel certification, or
- 5.1.2.3. certification of conformance issued by a government department, body or other agency accepted by the EFNDT as adequately fulfilling the function of ensuring compliance by the Certification Body with the ISO/IEC 17024 criteria.

5.1.3. *Exceptionally*, if there is a bona fide reason, as judged by the CEC, why it is not reasonably possible for the applicant certification body to demonstrate compliance as described in 5.1.2, an assessment for compliance with ISO/IEC 17024, and the ability to deliver certification in conformance with EN473 and/or ISO 9712, may be carried out by an EFNDT constituted audit team at the request of the NDT Society concerned, and with the consent of the Certification Body. In this case, a charge will be made to cover reasonable audit expenses.

## **5.2. Application for Recognition by EFNDT**

5.2.1. A Certification Body wishing to have its certification recognised under the Agreement shall submit to the Secretary of the EFNDT CEC:

5.2.1.1. a letter, from the national NDT Society of the country in which the Certification Body is based, nominating the Certification Body for registration under the MRA,

5.2.1.2. a valid certificate of conformance with the applicable standards detailed under 5.1.1.3, issued by a body acceptable to EFNDT (see clause 5.1.2),

5.2.1.3. a schedule detailing the scope of its accreditation (e.g. ISO/IEC 17024 EN473, ISO9712, etc..).

*Note 2. The above documents shall be accompanied by translations into the English language.*

5.2.2. The EFNDT CEC Secretary shall review the evidence presented for correctness, and present correctly submitted applications, with recommendations regarding registration, for consideration by the EFNDT Certification Executive Committee (CEC).

## **5.3. Acceptance of Recognition by EFNDT**

The acceptance of the Certification Scheme for registration under the EFNDT MRA shall be ratified by the EFNDT CEC at the next appropriate meeting. Recognition will be demonstrated by the issue of an individual Certificate of Registration, and by inclusion of the Certification Body's details in Schedule 2 to the EFNDT MRA.

## **5.4. Scope of Recognition**

On completion of the above procedure, the Certification Body may announce that holders of its certificates gained under these arrangements "*are certificated by a Scheme which is recognised by the European Federation for NDT as meeting the requirements of Standards and Technical Documents referenced in its schedule of Accredited Scope*". The EFNDT CEC Secretary will issue a Certificate to this effect and provide a statement for use by the registered Certification Body and by individual holders of certificates issued by the Certification Body.

## **5.5. Continuity of Registration**

Registration under the EFNDT MRA will be subject to the continuing validity of EFNDT recognised accreditation or certification of conformance with applicable standards.

Upon renewal of accreditation or certification of conformance with applicable standards, the registered Certification Body shall immediately forward a copy of the accreditation/certificate with a schedule of the scope of the accreditation/certification awarded to the Secretary to the EFNDT CEC, who will issue to the certification body concerned a revised certificate of registration, and amend and distribute to all bodies signatory to the agreement a revised Schedule 2 to the MRA.

## **6. PUBLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

6.1. The Secretary to the EFNDT CEC will publish Schedules listing:

6.1.1. the Parties to the Agreement (Schedule 1 – see example format at Annex 1)

6.1.2. the Certification Schemes registered under the Agreement (Schedule 2 – see example format at Annex 2)

6.2. Each Party to the Agreement shall publish in its own national language(s) a notice promoting this Agreement, listing the Parties to the Agreement and the Certification Schemes which are registered. Where there is a National NDT Journal, such notices shall be published in this journal at least annually.

6.3. Details of the MRA, the schedule of signatories and registered Certification Bodies will be published and maintained up-to-date on the EFNDT website ([www.efndt.org](http://www.efndt.org)).

## **7. ADVICE TO USERS OF PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION SCHEMES**

Advice on the use of the registered Certification Schemes is available from the EFNDT CEC Secretary, the EFNDT website or from the National NDT Societies in membership of the EFNDT.

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**CERTIFICATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**ANNEX 1**

(Example format of Schedule 1)

The following national NDT Societies have *signed* the EFNDT Agreement on Multilateral Recognition of NDT Personnel Certification schemes and have thereby *agreed to recognise* certificates issued by the particular Certification Schemes registered by EFNDT in accordance with the Agreement (see Schedule 2).

<b>Country</b>	<b>National NDT Society</b>	<b>Name of signatory</b>	<b>Place and date of signing</b>
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The latest version of this schedule is published on the website of the EFNDT.

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**CERTIFICATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**ANNEX 2 to MRA**

(Example format of Schedule 2)

**MULTILATERAL RECOGNITION OF NDT PERSONNEL  
CERTIFICATION SCHEMES**

The following NDT Personnel Certification Schemes have been accepted by the EFNDT as complying with the criteria set out in the EFNDT Agreement on Multilateral Recognition of NDT Personnel Certification and thus are recognised by the signatories to the Agreement (see Schedule 1).

<b>Accredited Certification Body</b>	<b>EN45013 or ISO/IEC 17024 compliance</b>	<b>EN473 compliance</b>	<b>ISO9712 compliance</b>	<b>Place &amp; date of acceptance</b>	<b>Expiry of registration</b>
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The latest version of this schedule is published on the website of the EFNDT, and is available from the CEC Secretary at the following address:

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