

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE APPROVAL OF NDT PERSONNEL BY RECOGNISED THIRD PARTY ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF DIRECTIVE 97/23/EC

Foreword

According to European Directive 97/23/EC Article 13 clause 1, European Union Member States shall notify the European Commission and the other Member States of the Third Party Organizations (RTPO) which they have recognised for the purposes of the tasks referred to in Annex 1, section 3.1.3, namely the 'Approval' of NDT personnel to test permanent joints of category III and IV pressure systems.

The methodology for approval of NDT personnel is not specified in Directive 97/23/EC, and it has been agreed by the Notified Body (NB) and Recognised Third Party Organisation (RTPO) members of the European Notified Bodies Forum (NBF) that a Code of Practice (CoP) be published for voluntary adoption by RTPO's to ensure a consistent approach in the application of The Directive to the approval of NDT personnel.

This CoP, which was approved by the Notified Bodies Forum on 23 June 2004 for submission to WGP, has evolved from an initial draft provided by the European Federation for NDT (EFNDT), which has as members over 30 NDT Societies, including a significant number of accredited NDT personnel certification bodies, many of which are also recognised by EU member states as Third Party Organisations.

Contents

REFERENCES	2
DEFINITIONS	2
INTRODUCTION	3
1. SCOPE.....	3
2. CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO RTPO APPLYING THIS CODE OF PRACTICE.....	3
3. APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS.....	3
4. APPROVAL ATTESTATION	4
5. RENEWAL OF APPROVALS.....	5
ANNEX 1 – FLOW DIAGRAM	6
ANNEX 2 – MODEL APPROVAL ATTESTATION.....	7

REFERENCES

1. DIRECTIVE 97/23/EC. European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED).
2. Working Group Pressure Guideline 6/13, adopted 17th March 2004.
3. EN 473 - Qualification and Certification of NDT Personnel – General Principles.
4. ISO 9712 - Non Destructive Testing - Qualification and Certification of Personnel.
5. ANSI ASNT CP 189 - Standard for Qualification and [second party] Certification of Non-Destructive Testing Personnel.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Code of Practice, the following definitions apply.

Recognised Third Party Organisation (RTPO)

body recognised by a member state of the European Union for the purposes of the tasks referred to in Directive 97/23/EC, Article 13 clause 1, and in Annex 1, section 3.1.3, namely the 'approval' of NDT personnel to test permanent joints for pressure equipment in category III and IV, and whose recognition has been notified to the European Commission and the other Member States.

Approval of NDT Personnel

documented statement issued by a body, recognised by a member state of the European Union as a RTPO, that a specified person is deemed competent to carry out specific non-destructive tests of permanent joints for pressure equipment in category III and IV (as described within Directive 97/23/EC Annex 1, clause 3.1.3).

Qualification

evidence of training, professional knowledge, skill and experience as well as physical fitness to enable NDT personnel to properly perform NDT tasks

Certification

procedure used to demonstrate the qualification of NDT personnel in a method, level and sector, and leading to the issue of a certificate by a third party.

Relevant Sector (covering permanent joints to pressure equipment)

any product or industrial sector as defined in Annex A of EN473 that includes testing permanent joints, such as 'Welded Products', 'Metal Manufacturing' or 'Pre and In-service Inspection'.

Standard other than harmonised standard EN 473 (reference 3)

NDT personnel qualification and certification standards cited in references 4 and 5

INTRODUCTION

Under this Code of Practice it has been established that the basis for a decision by a RTPO to Approve NDT personnel according to Directive 97/23/EC shall be a valid qualification or a certificate of competence, issued under either second or third party arrangements, covering Non-Destructive Testing in a relevant sector. Under this Code of Practice, there are three classifications of NDT personnel qualification/certification and related approval routes (A, B and C):

- A) Certification by RTPO. Individuals who are certified according to the European Harmonised Standard EN 473 in a relevant sector by a certifying body also recognised as a RTPO.
- B) Certification by a body which is not an RTPO. Individuals who are certified according to the European Harmonised Standard EN 473 or the international standard ISO 9712 in a relevant sector by a certification body *which is not a RTPO*.
- C) Cases other than routes A and B. Individuals qualified in a relevant sector against criteria that are equivalent to those of the harmonised standard EN473.

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This Code of Practice is for application by RTPO approving NDT Personnel under the provisions of Directive 97/23/EC, Article 13 and Annex 1, section 3.1.3.
- 1.2 The aim of this Code of Practice is in line with Guideline 6/13 (Ref 2) and is intended to assure a consistent approach and a high level of confidence in the approval of NDT personnel by RTPO's through widespread adoption of the criteria and approval processes detailed herein. A flow diagram illustrating this methodology is at Annex 1.

2. CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO RTPO APPLYING THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

Where on-site audits of certification systems and personnel are required (i.e. when applying Approval Route C), the RTPO shall appoint one or more assessors which, between them, hold NDT Level 3 certification covering relevant sector(s) and those NDT methods applied by the NDT personnel to be approved.

3. APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

For the approval of NDT personnel by a RTPO, the following shall be fulfilled:

- 3.1. **Route A.** An individual holds certification in a relevant sector, complying with the harmonised standard EN 473 issued by a Certification Body which is also a RTPO. In this case, the individual is considered to be approved without further action.
- 3.2. **Route B.** An individual holds certification complying with the harmonised standard EN 473 or ISO 9712 in a relevant sector issued by a certification body *which is not a RTPO*, but which has a formal contractual arrangement with a RTPO to carry out assessments as a sub-contractor. In this case the individual may be approved by the above mentioned RTPO upon receipt of satisfactory documented evidence in the form of an assessment report and certification provided by the certification body concerned.

- 3.3 **Route C.** An individual qualified in accordance with standards other than the harmonised standard EN 473 may be approved by a RTPO provided it is satisfied that qualification criteria equivalent to those of the harmonised standard have been met.
- 3.3.1 In particular, the RTPO shall ascertain during an audit conducted on site that the individual to be approved:
- 3.3.1.1 has satisfactory vision and colour perception
 - 3.3.1.2 has completed general and job-specific training prior to examination
 - 3.3.1.3 has acquired suitable experience during a defined minimum period in a relevant sector
 - 3.3.1.4 has been successful in written general and relevant specific qualification examinations
 - 3.3.1.5 has been successful in job-specific practical examinations that are relevant to the testing of permanent joints in pressure equipment
 - 3.3.1.6 continues to be qualified, without significant interruption, in the testing of permanent joints to pressure equipment
 - 3.3.1.7 is familiar with and able to satisfactorily implement defined NDT procedures and/or NDT instructions for the testing of permanent joints to pressure equipment.
- 3.3.2 The RTPO shall assess each of the NDT personnel applying for Approval. The assessment shall involve, as a minimum, a practical examination during which the individual seeking approval shall be observed, by an authorised agent of the RTPO (see clause 2), satisfactorily applying at least one relevant NDT instruction or procedure covering each of the NDT methods for which Approval is sought.

4. APPROVAL ATTESTATION

- 4.1 NDT Approval(s) issued by the RTPO shall have a period of validity which is relevant to the certification criteria involved. The period of validity shall not be greater than five years.
- 4.2 When required, i.e., in relation to approval under Routes B and C, the RTPO will issue an attestation of approval. The attestation shall include at least:
- a) the identity of the RTPO
 - b) the full name of the approved individual
 - c) the name of the qualifying body (in Route C this will be the employer or the PE manufacturer)
 - d) the NDT method(s) for which the individual is approved
 - e) the scope and limitations of the approval (e.g., whether the individual is approved only to carry out the test without interpreting the results, or applying NDT to specific materials using particular NDT equipment). This could be accomplished by referring to a level as defined in EN 473.
 - f) reference to Directive 97/23/EC Annex 1 clause 3.1.3
 - g) the conditions for maintaining the validity of the approval
 - h) the date of expiry of the approval (this could be in phase with the expiry date of the associated qualification/certification)
 - i) the signature of the RTPO's representative.

A model approval attestation is given in Annex 2.

5. RENEWAL OF APPROVALS

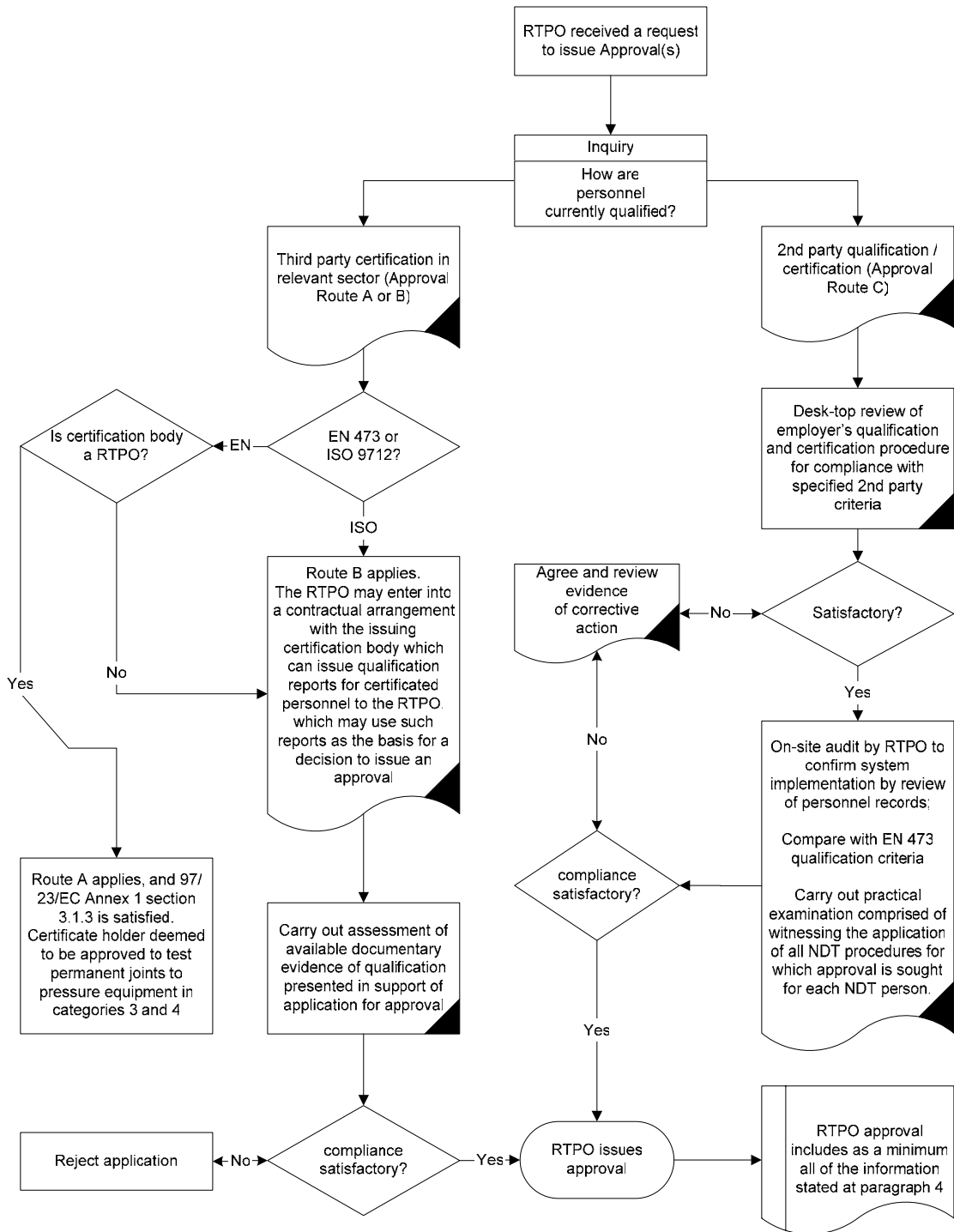
Upon expiry, an NDT personnel approval may be renewed by the RTPO provided the criteria for initial approval remain fulfilled.

Route A: Approval will be renewed automatically upon EN 473 renewal or recertification.

Route B: Approval may be renewed by the RTPO upon receipt of documentary evidence from the sub-contractor that EN 473 or ISO 9712 renewal or recertification has been completed.

Route C: Approval can be renewed by the RTPO provided the criteria for approval remain fulfilled.

ANNEX 1 – FLOW DIAGRAM



ANNEX 2 – MODEL APPROVAL ATTESTATION

Issue date:
 Issue number:
 Expiry date:

RTPO Logo
 and/or
 registration
 number

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

[Insert Name of RTPO], which is a Recognised Third Party Organisation as described within the European Pressure Equipment Directive at Article 13, has approved the following NDT personnel to carry out the specified non destructive tests on permanent joints to pressure equipment in category III and IV (PED Annex I, section 3.1.3 refers).

Full name of Approved NDT Person	NDT method(s) covered by approval	Scope of Approval or level of certification and any applicable limitations	Qualification body

The RTPO has approved the named NDT personnel to carry out the specified non-destructive tests on the basis of:

Specify the route or process leading to Approval, and state the conditions of validity of the approval:

Routes B conditions of validity: The validity of the approval is conditional upon the associated third party certificate remaining valid.

Route C conditions of validity: The validity of the approval is conditional upon the second party certification of the named NDT personnel being maintained up to date in accordance with internal procedure(s) or a written practice satisfying the criteria of an accepted standard.

Signature of the RTPO representative