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1. PURPOSE


- A. This Advisory circular advises of the ECAA requirements for the qualification of Non Destructive Testing (NDT) personnel.

2. BACKGROUND

- A. ECARAS Part 6 of the Civil Aviation (Approved Maintenance Organization) requires that each Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO) shall provide specialized training, including initial and recurrent, for employees whose duties require a specific skill.
- B. The term NDT is used throughout this circular to include, but is not limited to, liquid penetrant, magnetic particle, eddy current, ultrasonic, radiographic and other recognized methods as identified in the following referenced standards and shall be applicable to all NDT methods used by Approved Maintenance Organizations.

3. GENERAL


- A. Authorization (of NDT procedures): The act of signifying approval of NDT procedures by a nominated Level 3.
- B. Authorization (of NDT personnel): A written statement issued by a Nominated Level 3 based on the individual's competence as specified within the certificate.
- C. Certificate: A Document issued under the rules of the certification systems accepted by this circular, indicating that adequate confidence is provided that the named person is competent to perform specified non-destructive testing.
- D. Industry Sector: A particular section of industry or technology where specialized NDT practices are used requiring specific product related knowledge, skill, equipment or training. An industrial sector may be interpreted to mean a product (welds, castings etc.) or an industry (aerospace, petrochemical etc)
- E. NDT Technique: A specific way of utilizing an NDT method. (E.g.ultrasonic immersion technique).

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- F. NDT Procedure: A written description of all essential parameters and precautions to be observed when applying an NDT technique to a specific test, following an established standard, code or specification.
- G. NDT Instruction: A written description of the precise steps to be followed in testing to an established standard, code, specification or NDT procedure.
- H. NDT Method: Discipline applying a principle in Non- Destructive Testing. (E.g.ultrasonic method).
- I. Nominated Level 3: An independently certified Level 3 certificate holder, responsible to the Accountable Manager for the airworthiness aspects of NDT work undertaken by that Organization.
- J. Qualification: The proven ability of NDT personnel to meet the requirements of a given specification in terms of physical requirements, training, knowledge and experience necessary to perform the applicable NDT method.
- K. Qualification Examination: An examination administered by an independent certifying body accepted by this circular (see paragraph) which demonstrates the general, specific and practical knowledge of the candidate.
- L. Type Certificate: For the purposes of this circular, Type Certificate includes Type Certificates, Supplementary Type Certificates, Parts Approval Authorizations or Technical Standard Orders Authorizations.

4. PROCEDURES FOR THE QUALIFICATION OF NDT PERSONNEL.

- A. All Approved Maintenance Organizations involved in any aspects of NDT shall develop and maintain procedures for the qualification and authorization of their NDT personnel. The Authority recognizes and accepts NDT qualifications from the following bodies.
- B. The Authority recognizes and accepts NDT qualifications from the following bodies.
- (1) Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A: Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing (2006). This document provides guidelines for employers to

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establish in-house certification programs for the qualification and certification of NDT personnel.

- (2) MIL-STD-410E, Military Standard, Nondestructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification (acceptable, although now rescinded).
- (3) AIA-NAS-410, Aerospace Industries Association, National Aerospace Standard, NAS Certification & Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel. This document has superseded MIL-STD-410E.


- (4) ATA Specification 105, Air Transport Association, Guidelines for Training and Qualifying Personnel in Nondestructive Testing Methods.
- (5) Canadian National Regulations contained in CAN/CGSB-48.9712-95, Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel.
- (6) International Standards Organization (ISO) document: ISO 9712, Nondestructive Testing– Qualification and Certification of Personnel.
- (7) EN473 – General Principle for Qualification and Certification of NDT Personnel.
- (8) EN4179 – Qualification and approval of personnel for non-destructive testing.
- (9) American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc. (ASNT), Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A, Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing.

C. The holder of an appropriately type rated ECARAS Part 2 Aircraft Maintenance license may issue a Certificate of Release to Service to cover Non-Destructive Testing Inspections on aircraft or components, within the privileges of the license, only for inspections requiring the use of a field kit for the Color Contrast Dye Penetrant technique.

Note: Type II penetrant examinations shall not be used for final acceptance examination of aerospace products. In addition, Type II penetrant examinations shall not be used prior to a Type I penetrant examination of the same surface.

5. QUALIFIED STAFF


D. Approved Maintenance Organizations undertaking NDT must satisfy the Authority that they have

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- adequate numbers of suitably qualified staff to discharge the responsibilities of the approval.
- E. AMOs shall nominate in writing, supported with evidence of certification, an individual responsible to the Accountable Manager for the technical supervision of NDT. This individual will hold independent certification at Level 3 in accordance with paragraph 4.C in the appropriate industry sector and will be referred to as the “Nominated Level 3”. This position shall be identified within the Maintenance Procedures Manual and any change in this position advised to the Authority.
 - F. Where the Nominated level 3 is not qualified in all methods used by the Organization, then additional Level 3 personnel necessary to provide coverage, shall be independently certified.
 - G. Additional Level 3 Certification holders shall be listed in the MPM or reference made in the MPM to other documents containing the list of Level 3 holders. Any changes to this list are to be notified to the Authority through appropriate amendments.
 - H. The Authority may accept persons external to the AMO as the Nominated Level 3, provided written agreement exists between the individual and the AMO setting out the individuals responsibilities within the AMO.

6. INSPECTIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF INSPECTIONS.

- A. NDT inspections shall be carried out by personnel approved in accordance with the AMO’s written practice. Where NDT procedures are specified by the organization responsible for the design and/or manufacture of the aircraft, material, structure or component, then these must be used, except where change is permitted and authorized as defined in paragraph 6 of this circular. Where non mandatory inspections are to be undertaken, for which the responsible design/manufacturing organization has not specified NDT procedures, then the NDT method, technique, procedure and instruction shall be prepared in accordance with paragraph 7 of this circular and approved by a Level 3 holder qualified in the applicable method.
- B. Normally certification of inspections will be made by persons who hold Level 2 or above authorizations. However, where an inspection task is determined by the Nominated Level 3 to


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have clearly defined acceptability and rejection criteria requiring no interpretation, then certification may be made by an authorized Level 1, as detailed within the written procedure.

- C. Where a Level 3 is required to carry out and certify an NDT inspection then this person must either hold current Level 2 certification in those methods, or be able to provide evidence that they have successfully completed an appropriate Level 2 practical examination and maintained continuity in the application of practical testing, as defined in the reference standards and detailed in the written procedures.

7. NDT Techniques and Instructions and their Approval.

- A. NDT techniques, procedures and instructions, published and specified by the Type Certificate holder in NDT manuals, Service Bulletins, Approved Drawings etc. constitute airworthiness data.
- B. Where the airworthiness data published by the Type Certificate holder permits changes (e.g. selection of equipment model, probe type etc.) Then such changes must be authorized in writing by Level 3 qualified in the appropriate method.
- B. Any other change requires the written agreement of the Type Certificate holder responsible for the design of the product / structure and the acceptance of the ECAA before such a change is implemented.
- D. NDT instructions prepared by a Level 2 holder shall be approved by a Level 3 holder qualified in the applicable method.
- E. The procedure for the control of all NDT techniques, procedures and instructions, including their preparation and authorization within any AMO, shall be detailed in the Approved Maintenance

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Organization's approved Quality Procedures within the MPM.

8. Suppliers and Sub-Contractors to Approved Maintenance Organizations.

- A. An AMO utilizing suppliers and sub-contractors where NDT processes are employed, shall detail within their written procedures how the AMO ensures that training and approval of NDT personnel in such suppliers or sub-contractors is controlled. Similarly an AMO that utilizes a sub-contractor to carry out NDT processes on its behalf will detail within its MPM how the requirements of this circular are addressed.




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