



Minutes of a WG1 on NDT Qualification and Certification meeting held during the Asia-Pacific Conference on NDT, Yokohama, Japan, 9th November 2009

Status: Issued 2009-11-10, approved by e-mail with minor (tracked) revisions; afternotes added on: 2010-01-05

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
 - a. WG1 members Messrs. Mullin, Babu, Zirnhelt, Rodríguez, Aufricht, Ooka, Teles Filho, Thompson (Chairman), Barnett, Geng and Purschke were present at the meeting.
 - b. Apologies for absence were recorded for WG1 members Messrs. Nisbet, Ahmed, Delfini and Beetge.
 - c. Dr. Mike Farley (Chairman of ICNDT) attended the meeting as a guest, and two JSNDI observers, Messrs. Taguchi and Kato, were also present.
2. ICNDT Guidelines – plan for updating

It was agreed to await the outcome of the joint CEN/ISO WG activity on harmonisation of EN 473 with ISO 9712 before undertaking a review and revision of the guidelines.
3. Strategic Plan (WG1-03) Introduction
 - a. Mr. Thompson had submitted a written report on progress in his assignments (Annex C to these minutes).
 - b. It would be necessary, he reported, to review and, possibly, revise the WG1 action plan taking into account changes in the ICNDT Strategic plan, which was presently at revision 4b. **Action WG1/09/01: J Thompson.** Afternote: Reviewed and revised for submission to IEC teleconference 2010-01-11
4. Membership (WG1-01)

The membership of the group had recently been increased by one to include M. Francesco Delfini (Cofrend), who was unable to attend the present meeting since his appointment had been confirmed only days before.
5. Objectives
 - a. Referring to WG1-03 [action plan] and to WG1-02 [terms of reference]) - consider broadening terms of reference
 - b. Action 14 from March 2009 Executive Committee: *"Mr Thompson had drawn these up based on guidelines provided by Dr. Farley. Mr. Holliday noted that the emphasis was on central certification. It was agreed to accept these [ToR] pro tem and suggest they be broadened in the future to include other schemes, for example company-based certification and EN4179/NAS410."*
 - c. The meeting did not address this topic, which would remain as an item to be dealt with between meetings. **Action WG1/09/02: J Thompson.** Afternote: Referred to IEC teleconference 2010-01-11
6. Reports from ICNDT Regions
 - a. Mr. Barnett reported on developments in the Asia-Pacific region. Bali meeting in June 2009. IAEA concluded programme on harmonisation. 16 members signed MLA. Timeline: 2012 for certification harmonisation. Brief report to be attached to these notes of the meeting. Draw attention to the IAEA guidance for CB QMS. Afternote: DB submitted written report which was circulated 2010-01-06. IAF G24 provides guidance on implementation of ISO/IEC 17024:2003.
 - b. Dr. Purschke reported on developments in the European region. EN473:2008; EFNDT CEC work: assessment and accreditation of ChSNDT, which is now signatory to the MLA; Harmonisation of the EN473 and ISO9712 standards as a result of the Shanghai workshop on Q&C. TC135 and TC138 joint WG made progress on agreement to harmonise these standards. It is anticipated that a first draft of the harmonised standard will be tabled at the ISO TC 135 meeting in Moscow at the 10th ECNDT.



- c. Mr. Filho reported on developments in the Pan-America region which is Annex A to these minutes.
 - d. No report had been submitted for the Africa region. **Action WG1/09/03: Mr. Beetge** to submit written report for information of the WG. Afternote: Mr. Beetge resigned WG1 membership 2010-01-06.
7. Liaisons
- a. ISO TC135 SC7 & CEN TC138. Report of 17th September meeting in Madrid. **Action WG1/09/04: Mr. Thompson** to identify the members of the drafting panel. Afternote: see action summary.
 - b. IAF WG on ISO/IEC 17024. Mr. Zirnhelt presented a written report which is Annex B to these minutes. The next meeting will be in approximately 6 months time in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting expressed its thanks to Mr. Zirnhelt for his report.
 - c. Mr. Barnett reported that the IAEA RCA funded project on Q&C was nearing conclusion. There would next be a shift in focus to Pan-America and Africa. There was a new project on DIR going forward to 2012.
 - d. ASME. There was a code case relating to NDE in Nuclear sector (section III) referencing 3rd party certification of personnel. **Action WG1/09/05: Mr. Nisbet** to provide written report on what developments are in train and envisaged for ASME codes that impact on Q&C of NDT personnel. Afternote: RN submitted written report which was circulated 2010-01-06.
 - e. ISO/CASCO WG30 (ISO/IEC 17024 revision). Mr Thompson had been appointed TC 135 SC7 observer at WG30 meetings, the next of which would be in Geneva, 23 – 25 February 2010.
8. Multilateral Agreements
- a. Mr Thompson described the [EFNDT](#) MLA, which had worked satisfactorily for many years, and which is administered by an EFNDT Certification Executive Committee (CEC). He wondered if, should the ICNDT implement a global MLA, there would be a need to establish a small committee, along the lines of the EFNDT CEC, to administer an ICNDT MLA.
 - b. Mr. Barnett reported on the status of the MRA developed for the [RCA member](#) states. The agreement is based upon compliance with ISO 17024. There was some discussion concerning those countries that do not yet meet the requirements for registration.
 - c. Mr. Thompson said that, provided there is support amongst WG1 members, it is proposed to survey the wider ICNDT membership to ascertain whether there is support for an [ICNDT](#) Global Multilateral Agreement (GMLA) on recognition of NDT personnel certification, based upon national accreditation or ICNDT approval of Personnel Certification Bodies. The GMLA could be completed by the time of the 2nd WG1 meeting in ~~Geneva~~ [Houston at the ASNT Fall Conference.](#)
 - d. However, at the ICNDT PGPC meeting on 8th November, Mr. Holiday (ASNT) had expressed concerns regarding this, and opposed further development. He asked that WG1 take his concerns into consideration. JMF explained what he felt the concerns of WH were. It was suggested that reference to the output from the Shanghai workshop would support the development of an MLA.
 - e. **Action WG1/09/06: Messrs Aufricht and Babu** to produce a one page summary of what the MLA is, with objectives, then conduct and compile results of a survey of ICNDT members on their opinions regarding this development while the WG continues with developing and refining system.
9. Website
- Dr. Purschke reported on the development of the ICNDT website (www.icndt.org). User groups will be created, and members informed as to which group they fit into. WG1 will have a section



for its documents, and members can register and download private documents. Historical documents are also to be made available.

10. Q&C Forum

- a. Mr. Thompson reported that he and Mr. Beetge had not discussed this, but he had offered a presentation on the WG1 action plan at the 6th African NDT Conference in Accra on 17th to 19th March 2010. **Action WG1/09/07: Mr. Beetge** is requested to assist with contact information for NDT Societies and certification bodies in the Africa region, and to confirm his intentions regarding attendance at this conference.
- b. Insufficient time was available for an open forum at the present meeting. Future opportunities were noted for conferences at Accra, Cancun and Durban. It was suggested that opportunities for providing a forum on WG1 activities would occur at national conferences, and it was agreed that WG1 members could organise such forums using the WG1 PowerPoint presentation provided with these minutes. **Action WG1/09/08: J Thompson** to circulate PPP; members to deliver presentations and set up Q&A forums at national conferences.

11. Interpretations (of standards on NDT Personnel Q&C).

There was a discussion on risk of litigation. G Aufricht spoke of possibility of insurance taken out to cover such exigencies. It was agreed to 'shelve' this action until ICNDT has defined its risk management policy.

12. Introduction of new qualifications.

- a. Discussion. WG1 could solicit the assistance of the experts in new methods and techniques to determine training syllabi and durations of training and experience required certification candidates. It was agreed to investigate the development of qualification and certification for new methods and techniques at the regional levels. **Action WG1/09/09** was assigned as follows:
 - i. Digital Industrial Radiography in Europe: **Dr. Purschke**.
 - ii. UTPA & TOFD: **Mr. Barnett** in Asia-Pacific region; **Mr. Aufricht** in the European region and **Mr. Zirnheld** in the Americas.

13. A Directory of Certification Bodies was presented by Mr. Babu. The WG recognised the valuable contribution provided by Mr. Babu, and it was agreed that this directory should be published in the ICNDT Journal and on the ICNDT website once certain anomalies were investigated and corrected. **Action WG1/09/10: Mr. Babu** to clarify the status of:

- a. Numbers of certificates (numbers valid at time of survey – not certificates issued over all time)
- b. Number of persons (holding valid certificates, not number of persons certificated over all time).

14. Examination question database.

Following extensive discussion it was agreed to shelve this topic for the present and to return to it at a subsequent meeting when progress had been made on other fronts that were more feasible.

15. ICNDT assessment & approval service

- a. Mr. Thompson reported that he had completed work of drafting the system documentation, which comprises a controlling document in the form of an Excel file, with links to seven other documents defining the system and its implementation (which had been circulated with the agenda for the 1st WG1 meeting). He now awaited comments and feedback from WG1 before finalising and submission of the documents to the ICNDT PGP"
- b. However, at the ICNDT PGPC meeting on 8th November, Mr. Holiday (ASNT) had expressed concerns regarding this development (as well as the development of an ICNDT MLA). He urged a wider consultation on the *need* for such ICNDT processes, and



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asked that WG1 take his concerns into consideration before proceeding further with this work.

- c. **Action WG1/09/11:** Messrs. Barnett, Zirnhelt & Babu to produce brief paper explaining why this service is needed and how it would be delivered. Meanwhile, the documented system can be refined by Mr. Thompson in the light of WG1 comments submitted by members.
16. Date and location for next meeting(s):
- a. ASNT Fall Conference, Houston, TX, 14th November 2010
 - b. 5th PACNDT, Mexico, 20th to 24th June 2011?
 - c. 18th WCNDT, Durban, SA, week commencing 16th July 2012
17. Closing of the meeting
- On behalf of the WG, Mr. Thompson expressed grateful thanks to JSNDI, the generous host for this meeting.
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Attachments (distributed with these minutes)

- PowerPoint presentation summarising WG1 activities (for use by WG1 members in any public NDT forums or national conferences/meetings)
- PowerPoint presentation on assessment and approval of NDT PCB (confidential until authorised for public presentation by the WG1 chairman)
- PowerPoint presentation on Multilateral Agreement on Recognition of certification issued by NDT PCB (confidential until authorised for public presentation by the WG1 chairman)



Assigned Actions

Ref	Assignment	Remarks
WG1/09/01	review and, possibly, revise the WG1 action plan taking into account changes in the ICNDT Strategic plan	Thompson. Completed 2010-01-06
WG1/09/02	consider broadening terms of reference to include 2 nd party qualification and certification	Thompson. Referred to 2010-01-11 IEC.
WG1/09/03	submit written report on developments in the Africa region for information of the WG.	Beetge
WG1/09/04	identify the members of the EN/ISO drafting panel. <i>Afternote: A restricted group composed of Renate Alijah, Paul Doeswijk, Mike Farley, Hajime Hatano, Rodolfo Rodriguez Juarez, Rick Robichaud, Jean-Michel Tchilian, John Thompson, convened by Patrick Fallovey, was set up in order to deal with the observations recorded at the 1st meeting in Madrid on 2009-09-17.</i>	Thompson. Completed 2010-01-06
WG1/09/05	provide written report on what developments are in train and envisaged for ASME codes that impact on Q&C of NDT personnel.	Nisbet. Completed 2009-12-03. Report circulated to WG1 members.
WG1/09/06	produce a one page summary of what the MLA is, with objectives, then conduct and compile results of a survey of ICNDT members on their opinions regarding this development while the WG continues with developing and refining system.	Aufricht & Babu
WG1/09/07	assist with contact information for NDT Societies and certification bodies in the Africa region, and to confirm intentions regarding attendance at the Accra conference.	Beetge
WG1/09/08	circulate PPP on WG1 activity; deliver presentations and set up Q&A forums at national conferences.	Thompson; members
WG1/09/09	investigate the development of qualification and certification for new methods and techniques at the regional levels.	Digital Industrial Radiography in Europe: Purschke. UTPA & TOFD: Barnett in Asia-Pacific region; Aufricht in the European region and Zirnheldt in the Americas.
WG1/09/10	clarify the status in the survey of PCB of: Numbers of certificates (numbers valid at time of survey, not certificates issued over all time) Number of persons (holding valid certificates, not number of persons certificated over all time).	Babu



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Ref	Assignment	Remarks
WG1/09/11	produce brief paper explaining why the approval of PCB service is needed and how it would be delivered. Meanwhile, the documented system can be refined in the light of WG1 comments submitted to the Chairman.	Messrs. Barnett, Zirnhelt & Babu. Completed 2009-12-11. Forwarded to JMF for IEC attention 2010-01-05. WG1 members & Thompson



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Annex A – Pan-American Region Report to WG1 Meeting, Monday 9 November 2009

Brazil - ABENDE

Developing the Qualification and Certification Scheme on NDT according to 9712, NDT methods and inspection inspection, 6500 certified professionals and 15000 registered

Developing the brazilian standards on NDT for many methods, 25 standards approved by ABNT – Brazilian Standardization Society

Brazil- ABENDE

ABENDE is strongly involved in the Mercosul Standardization

Brazil is a secretary of SC 09 AE of TC 135

A meeting of this SC was held in Salvador-Bahia during the Brazilian Equipments Conference last June

Brazil- ABENDE

- Developing Training for NDT Qualification by Recognized Training Organizations.

Promoted the 10th Conference on Equipments Technology in Salvador – Bahia for 1000 participants on NDT, Equipments Inspection and Corrosion

Promoted the 2nd NDT New Technologies Forum last October

Uruguay- AENDUR

Development of Training Courses with uruguayan experts

Implementing of a national scheme on qualification and certification of NDT Personnel according to 9712

Colombia- ASOCEND

ASOCEND is developing the documents to be accredited an certification organization by the government according to ISO 17024

ASOCEND has a national scheme to qualify and certify a NDT and Welding Inspectors. 600 certified persons

Mexico- IMEND

Organizing the next Pan America Conference to be held in Cancun in 2011

Argentina NDT Society-AAEND

Organizing the Regional Conference on NDT-COREND to be held in Rosario from 11 to 13 November 2009

Implementing the national scheme on qualification and certification of NDT according to ISO 9712



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National NDT Societies

There are 6 associations duly established in the region:

Argentina: Argentina Association of NDT – AAEND

Brazil: Brazilian Society for NDT and Inspection – ABENDI

Uruguay: Uruguayan Association of NDT – AENDUR

Colombia: Colombian Association of Welding and NDT – ACOSEND

Venezuela: Venezuelan Association of NDT – ASOVEND

National NDT Societies

There are 2 entities in Mexico:

IMEND – Mexican Institute of NDT: this is an organization for the training and qualification of people in NDT. It is organizing the next Pan-American Conference to be held in 2011.

AMEXEND – Mexican Association of NDT: it is a non-profit technical-scientific association.

National NDT Societies

Other organizations that develop NDT

Bolivia: Bolivian Chamber of Hydrocarbons

Cuba: Electric Union of Cuba

Dominican Republic: National Commission of NDT and Quality

Ecuador: Polytechnic School of the Coast - ESPOL – Guayaquil

Peru: Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy – IPEN - Will promote the 3rd National Congress from 4 to 5 December 2009

Regional Project

A Regional Project on NDT is implementing in the region with the support from IAEA. The 1st meeting was held in Buenos Aires on last March. 10 countries are participating. Spain is also supporting this Project by AEND.



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Annex B - Report from an IAF* TC 17024 Working Group meeting in Vancouver, 2009-10-10

*IAF = International Accreditation Forum (an association of accreditation bodies which meets in coordination with the International Laboratory Accreditation Council (ILAC))

IAF TC 17024 Working Group

- all participants were representing accreditation bodies, some government and some private
- the WG's main activity is to provide consensus input to the ISO TC (to influence changes)
- there is another body, the International Personnel Certification Association (IPC) which has related activities - they work with this WG

The most significant discussion related to criteria for "endorsed [certifying] bodies", which would then be considered mutually equivalent. The WG intends to define an endorsed body, then justify the concept to the IAF Board and then, presumably, it will make its way into 17024.

The consensus, as I interpreted it, would be to use ISO 19011 or ISO 17021 Part 2 auditors to establish equivalence, these auditors would not necessarily have any technical depth but would audit the systems.

Throughout the discussion, I was asked to comment on our experience in NDT where we have a relatively well developed and widely applied standard being administered by many certifying bodies.

Recommendations:

1. Despite the secretary's comments in his email to John Thompson, the place for our relationship is with IAF not ILAC—we are not looking at the overall laboratory environment.
2. WG1 should continue to participate in WG 17024, and follow the concept of the "endorsed certifying body"
3. WG1 should, at the appropriate time, take our place as an accreditation body.

John Zirnhelt
2009-11-09



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Annex C – Report of action plan progress for JR Thompson’s assignments

- A7 (Plan and organise a regular (annual or biennial) forum on qualification and certification topics, inviting guest speakers with specialist knowledge/experience). John Thompson & Ben Beetge.
 - Ben and I have not discussed this, but I have offered (and had accepted) a presentation on the WG1 action plan at the 6th African NDT Conference in Accra on 17th to 19th March 2010. Ben has been requested to assist with contacts and ideas, but is not now attending the 1st WG1 meeting. If any other WG1 members will be present at the Accra conference, it is requested that they join me and that we offer a Q&A session on the WG and its activities.
- B2 (Follow up the Recommendations in the ICNDT Guide and the output from the CEN/ISO Workshop in Shanghai, 2008). Geng Rong Sheng and John Thompson.
 - I haven’t heard from Dr. Geng, but I have concentrated on working on a number of fronts, many of which are directly related to this action, particularly the joint CEN/ISO review of EN 473 and ISO 9712, upon which I will report separately.
- B3 (Develop an assessment and ICNDT accreditation system for NDT PCBs - related to ICNDT Global MLA). John Thompson and Alexander Mullin, with support from all WG1 members.
 - I asked Alexander to become involved with this because of his experience of the system operated by the EFNDT. However, we have not conspired in the work of drafting the system documentation, which comprises a controlling document in the form of an Excel file, with links to seven other documents defining the system and its implementation (which have already been circulated with the agenda for the 1st WG1 meeting). From my perspective the work is now completed and only awaiting comments and feedback from WG1 before finalising and submission to the ICNDT PGP.
- B5 (Encourage harmonisation and recognition of certification through regional multilateral agreements, assisting with documentation where requested - related to ICNDT Accreditation of NDT PCB). John Thompson and David Barnett.
 - David and I have not spoken directly on this but, provided there is support from him and other WG1 members, I plan to start work on an ICNDT Global Multilateral Agreement (GMLA) on recognition of ISO 9712 certification, based upon national accreditation or ICNDT approval of Personnel Certification Bodies. The GMLA would be completed by the time of the 2nd WG1 meeting in Cancun.
- B7 (Annually review and, if necessary, update the ICNDT Guide and Recommendations on NDT personnel Qualification and Certification). John Thompson and Matthias Purschke.
 - There seems little point on expending time and effort on this when ISO 9712 is about to be revised.
- B8 (Establish an ISO 9712 Interpretation Panel). Gerhard Aufricht & John Thompson.
 - Gerhard is the lead on this, but he has not contacted me so far with a view to establishing the terms of reference and method of working for a panel.

John Thompson
23rd October 2009