



*"the World organization  
for NDT"*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

### **WG1 on NDT Qualification and Certification**

A meeting of ICNDT WG1 was held at 10:00 on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
in the TÜV-Forum, Walfischgasse 6, 1015 Wien

**Confirmed Minutes of the meeting** (WG1-M2) registered in [WG1-00](#) (Document Control)

- 1) Opening of the meeting (10:00)
  - a) Welcome by hosts (ÖGfZP/TUV Austria).
    - i) Gerhard Aufricht welcomed all attendees on behalf of the Austrian Society for NDT, and also on behalf of TUV Austria, which provided the excellent meeting facilities, refreshments and lunch.
  - b) Attendance and apologies for absence ([see attendance list](#))
- 2) Confirmation of the agenda (and proposals for AOB)
  - a) The agenda was confirmed with the addition (proposed by Dr. Farley) of an item allowing feedback from the events of the ICNDT meetings in Moscow on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> WCNDT.
  - b) Two items were accepted for discussion under AOB (time permitting).
  - c) JRT proposed that the meeting give priority to reviewing the comments on the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA), and the agenda was restructured accordingly.
- 3) Preamble: feedback from ECNDT (Moscow) meetings
  - a) JMF recalled that the WG1 PowerPoint report to the General Assembly was very well received, with unanimous support given for distribution to the ICNDT members of the WG1 documentation detailing the proposed systems for Assessment and ICNDT Approval of Personnel Certification Bodies, and the ICNDT Multilateral Agreement on Recognition of Certification (henceforth to be referred to as the ICNDT MRA). He recommended that the PowerPoint presentation be updated for general information.
  - b) JMF went on to recommend that bi-lateral discussions be considered between ICNDT representatives and ASME and the European Commission (and any other party which needs convincing) to promote the benefits of the MRA

#### **Action 2010-01: JRT**

- 4) WG1 membership and Terms of Reference
  - a) The meeting discussed and reviewed WG1 member attendance and contribution, noting that the representative from Qatar has not attended a meeting and never contributed to the WG1 work. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman contact him and ask him to give a commitment to attend and contribute to the work.
  - b) There was a proposal to seek another member from Africa, either Tunisia or Ghana; It was agreed that contact should be made with both potential African members.

#### **Action 2010-02: DM**

- c) It was also noted that the ASNT representative had not been able to attend meetings, possibly due to business overload, and it was agreed that the Chairman would discuss this with Messrs. Nisbet and Holiday.
- d) It was agreed to invite the IAEA to send an observer to all future WG1 meetings.

#### **Action 2010-03: JRT**

- 5) ICNDT [MLA System Documents](#) (for approval to distribute for information and comment to ICNDT members)
  - a) The meeting reviewed comments that had been received on the MRA, agreeing amendments to be made in each case. A summary follows:
    - i) Comment 4 (PCB acceptance from a country where the MLA signatory is also PCB): accepted.

- ii) PCB should be a non-profit organisation (Babu). There was no sustained argument to impose this condition. Impartiality shall be assured through compliance to ISO 17024.
- iii) Can associate ICNDT members sign the MLA? Agreed; this has to be included in the document (JRT: any member [full or associate] may sign the agreement or propose a PCB).
- iv) Clarity between MLA signatory and approved PCB under MLA? PF suggested that the terminology may not be crystal clear to the people "outside" the NDT world. Proposals for better wording are needed
- v) Implications of the second requirement in the approval scheme, i.e. requirement that the assessment team of the accreditation body comprises a Level 3 individual registered by ICNDT. There was agreement on the principle that it is desirable to have an NDT expert included in the accreditation audit team (gives lot more confidence in the accreditation). Present words have been modified to include this principle and also replace, for accreditation bodies) "recognized by ICNDT" by "in membership of IAF". This has to be reflected in the other relevant documents.
- vi) Agreement to neutralize all references to the administration process throughout the documents.
- vii) Replace MLA with MRA throughout? There was support from the floor, and JRT accepted an action to implement.
- viii) Global or Regional agreement? It had been agreed in Moscow that there will be a unique global agreement, with support from the various regions. The global one will replace the present regional ones (e.g. the EFNDT one). This will require transition arrangements: to be agreed.
- ix) 'Members' of the agreement? Only signatories, but the PCB's which gained approval are now also compelled to promote other PCB's certificates. This is a requirement of the CoP. JRT felt that this was clear, with on one side signatories and, on the other side, PCB's registered under the MLA/MRA.
- x) Governance. Relationships (between GA, Executive Committee, WG1, certification Committee, Secretariat, Signatories) need to be dealt with, together with any financial responsibilities. Guidance to be written by Executive Committee, supported by WG1 Chairman.
- xi) How to get support from the key stakeholders? I.e. industry leaders/code writers which are the bodies that we want to use the ICNDT MRA in order to allow worldwide recognition of certification. The action plan should include bilateral discussions with ASNT, ASME, the EC and other key stakeholders, seeking their support for the MRA and PCN Approvals systems
- xii) The present title is "ICNDT Code of Practice for Certification Bodies". Slight correction to the verbiage in the flow chart document.
- xiii) A higher level than WG1 shall review the PCB's applications (all documents to be purged)
- xiv) All editorial comments to be dealt with by JRT.
- xv) Add guidance on application and use of the flow charts.

**Action 2010-04: JRT**

- 6) Review of comments received on ICNDT [PCB Approval System Documents](#).
  - a) It was agreed that the ICNDT audit team shall be comprised of at least two assessors, between them holding Level 3 certification and having been trained and qualified as management system assessor(s). It was proposed by DB to accept assessors holding Level 2 certification in the 6 principal NDT methods; this was considered by the meeting to be OK for support to accreditation audits, but was not accepted for the ICNDT audit *team leader*.
  - b) It was agreed that a gap analysis shall be carried out between our system document(s) and ISO/IEC 17040

**Action 2010-05: SB** (Babu will lead the TG; Other members to be identified)

- c) It was agreed that it is highly desirable that one member of the audit team be fluent in the language of the certification being assessed.
- d) Timeframes (minimum standards of service) for communication between the applicant and the "ICNDT relevant body" were agreed and included.
- e) A period of validity of three (3) years was agreed for ICNDT approvals, with no annual surveillance and a full reassessment required before renewal of ICNDT approval. This is to be included in the systems documentation.
- f) Develop a front document for presentation of this system (*Chairman's afternote: this work was completed by DB, JMF & JRT*).
- g) Following a discussion concerning acceptance of organisations for registration under the MRA if they work to "ISO 9712 modified", i.e. with deviations (national editions using ISO Guide 21), there was general agreement to forbid the acceptance of systems deviating from ISO 9712.

7) Documents for distribution.

- a) All of the system documentation for distribution was to be purged by JRT of reference to bodies or individuals/positions responsible for administration and management of the systems, pending the receipt of direction from the IEC and/or PGPC on such matters.
- b) Following completion of the review of comments and further discussion, it was agreed that the following system documents should be distributed to ICNDT members for information (with no obligation to comment, and not for formal approval):
  - i) Updated PPP Report (presented by JRT to the GA in Moscow)
  - ii) Results of survey of ICNDT members on MRA and PCB Approval
  - iii) Introductory letter (to MRA and PCBA)
  - iv) MRA cover document
  - v) MRA main document
  - vi) PCBA cover document
  - vii) PCBA audit process and procedure
  - viii) ICNDT PCB certificate of approval
  - ix) ICNDT PCB Code of Practice (applicable to MRA and PCBA)
- c) Initially, revised documents to be sent for pre-release review to DB, JZ & JMF prior to being circulated to all ICNDT members ASAP and, if possible, a month in advance of the Houston meeting of WG1.
- d) A covering letter should explain that administration and management of the MRA and PCBA systems has yet to be discussed and allocated to appropriate bodies.

**Action 2010-06: JRT**

- e) WG1 requested guidance or direction from IEC/PGPC on the bodies or individuals to be responsible for administration, management and decision making in the MRA and PCBA systems, and communicate this to the WG1 Chairman for incorporation into system documents)

**Action 2010-07: JMF**

- 8) The meeting reviewed and adjusted the action plan, as required by the WG1 terms of reference.
- 9) Any other business
  - a) The two items that had been scheduled for discussion were:
    - i) Review of 2010-09-14 TC138/AHG9 agenda
    - ii) Report of ISO/CASCO WG30 meeting, June 2010
  - b) There was insufficient time available for discussion of these topics.

10) Objectives, date and location for next meeting:

- a) To review amended system and procedural documents, including any comments and feed-back received since the present meeting, and to receive direction from PGPC and/or IEC on management and administration of the MRA and PCBA systems, agreeing any changes to system documentation as a result of such direction.
- b) The 3<sup>rd</sup> WG1 meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (PGPC meets on 13<sup>th</sup>), immediately prior to the ASNT Fall Conference in Houston, Texas.
- c) An agenda and details of location and accommodation to be distributed by end of September (at the latest).

**Action 2010-08: JRT**

11) The meeting was adjourned at 16:15 with thanks to our hosts, and it was unanimously agreed to record special thanks to Mrs. Marshall, who devoted her entire weekend to catering for us, and generally looking after us during our meetings.