



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

Guidance Note - April 2026

Cooperation between NDT societies and Certification Bodies

Introduction

The International Committee for Non-Destructive Testing (ICNDT) was established with a clear mission: to promote a safer world through the effective practice of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT). At the heart of its constitution lie essential commitments that guide its efforts, including the international development of NDT science and practice. This development is undertaken in partnership with individual NDT societies and recognised regional groupings, fostering a collaborative global community.

Objectives of ICNDT

ICNDT's objectives are centred on encouraging international cooperation in all matters pertaining to NDT. The organisation is committed to supporting the foundation, growth and strengthening of both existing and new national NDT societies. By facilitating collaboration, ICNDT aims to create a robust network that enhances the practice and understanding of NDT worldwide.

International operations of NDT societies

Many member NDT societies within ICNDT conduct activities beyond their country of origin. These international endeavours often include organising training programmes, certifying personnel and hosting conferences. There are considerable benefits to these cross-border operations, as they directly contribute to ICNDT's overarching mission. However, it is vital that such activities are organised in conjunction with the local NDT society of the host country. Failure to collaborate locally can undermine the host society and contravene the objectives set out in the ICNDT constitution.

Guidance for cooperation

Recognising the importance of harmonious international engagement, the ICNDT Executive Committee calls upon all members to ensure thorough cooperation with local NDT societies when planning operations abroad. Members are urged to be diligent in meeting ICNDT's objectives, thereby strengthening the global NDT community.

Personnel certification and collaboration

The ICNDT Guide offers specific recommendations regarding personnel certification. National NDT societies wishing to establish their own certification schemes are advised to consider collaborating with existing personnel certification bodies (PCBs), either as an alternative or as a complementary measure. This approach does not exclude the possibility of developing a local PCB. Furthermore, NDT societies or PCBs operating outside their home country are strongly encouraged to work closely with the national NDT society in the country where they intend to operate. This cooperation should ideally be formalised through a signed agreement between the involved parties. In cases where disagreements arise, ICNDT stands ready to provide mediation to resolve such issues constructively.