

# **Why Written Practice matters in qualification of aerospace NDT personnel acc. to EN4179/NAS410 standard**

**Tomas Zavadil<sup>1</sup>, Zbynek Zavadil<sup>2</sup>, Vaclav Jandura<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Services Department, ATG (Advanced Technology Group), Czech Republic, <sup>1</sup>General Director, ATG (Advanced Technology Group), Czech Republic, <sup>1</sup>Services Department, Ltd., Czech Republic

The EN4179/NAS410 standard defines the minimal requirements to provide a basic benchmark among aerospace OEM and MRO organizations (e.g. for training and experience etc.), but it also provides flexibility because the content is responsibility of the Employer's Responsible level 3 (a Level 3 designated to be responsible for qualification process). Employer's requirements are summarized in a document called the Written Practice. The role of this document is to specify, how exactly the Employer qualifies his NDT staff. The document has to make clear especially: 1) Who may qualify and if Outside Agency is used, how to ensure it's competence 2) What methods and techniques are implemented 3) What are the internal requirements for training, experience, examination 4) How the certification, recertification, suspension, reinstatement and continuous proficiency monitoring are handled Established requirements have to be minimally the same or more strict than the standard and shall be always unambiguous. The document also has to be linked to standards, procedures, specifications, equipment and production (maintenance) portfolio of the Employer. As a result, whoever wants to qualify the Employer's personnel needs to always primarily follow this document, not just the standard. Written Practice is the key part of numerous NDT audits in aerospace, including customer audits of big primes, PRI audits during NADCAP accreditation for aerospace OEMs, and audits by national CAA for both OEM and MRO organizations. Non-existent, or poorly designed and/or implemented Written Practice is usually a source of major findings that often require immediate and substantial corrective actions. In some cases, they may even cause delay and/or suspension of production process. Therefore, it is important to have the Written Practice designed and implemented well, including the process for selection of Outside Agencies that qualify the NDT personnel (if used).