

# **ROLE OF NDE TRAINING CENTRES IN QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS OF NDE PERSONNEL**

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In Non-destructive Examination, using qualified operating personnel is one of the imperative requirements. Training and certification in NDE is essential for successful NDE. For certification, numerous national and international schemes exist to choose from. Somehow, the end customer who owns the ultimate responsibility for quality seems to be not involved in the process of qualification and certification. The end result of NDE is solely dependent on qualified procedure, calibrated equipment and qualified operator. A qualified operator, during examination, can confirm the other two elements and hence plays a pivotal role in this whole process. So, the key role played in the process of quality NDE is by the training centres, who 'make' the certified personnel. Numerous factors may affect an operator's control on the non-destructive examination process leading to errors. It is assumed that a 'certified' person will take care and rectify the situation. However, the reality could be far from this. One may give a major portion of credit of the training and certification process to the training centres. The training centre has to consider and monitor continuously a number of parameters to develop a quality system for controlling the overall training function. The training centre has to ensure that the candidates will be ready to shoulder the responsibility on the field. Ultimately, results of the certification examination may just be a by-product of the whole process. The significance of certification process may be underscored by a hypothetical debate on whether a failed product shall be blamed on the manufacturing unit or the certifying body of the person examining it. We seldom trace back the training certificate of the candidate to understand his capabilities. It is assumed that the training is of no consequence once over, which may lead to some risk. Having said this and understood the fact that training centres have to own a major responsibility, an effort is made here to detail the activities required to be carried out by a training centre and the hurdles it needs to overcome. It includes activities like quality system design, training program design, training material, selection of trainers and so on. Keywords: Non-destructive examination, qualification and certification, training centres and their role.