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BINDT
THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF
NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING



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BINDT APPROVAL OF NDT PERSONNEL FOR PED THROUGH SECOND PARTY QUALIFICATION SYSTEMS

The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing is a *Recognised Third-Party Organisation (RTPO)* under regulation 20 of the European Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999 which implement the provisions of Directive 97/23/EC of the European Parliament concerning pressure equipment. As a RTPO, BINDT approves personnel to carry out non-destructive tests on permanent joints for pressure equipment in categories III and IV in accordance with section 3.1.3 of Schedule 2 to the Regulations and is bound by the regulations and any amendments or guidelines in force.

Please note: changes have been implemented as a result of developments described below.

In March 2004, the European Working Group (Pressure) published a [guideline 6/13](#) (attached for information) on the approval of NDT personnel. This stated that "NDT personnel certified under standards, other than the harmonized standards, may be approved by a RTPO provided it is satisfied that certification criteria equivalent to the harmonized standards (i.e., EN 473) have been met".

In order to implement this guideline, RTPOs agreed a [code of practice](#) intended to ensure a uniform approach to *approving* NDT personnel. This code of practice was subsequently submitted to CEN enquiry during which it was slightly modified, and has been approved as technical report number 15589 (CEN TR 15589). TR 15589 has since been made a normative reference in prEN 473 (2007).

The effect of this is that, when assessing personnel that are *not* certified under the harmonized standard EN 473, the RTPO must directly assess each individual for approval in each of the NDT methods for which approval is sought. The assessment will consist, as a minimum, of witnessing the application of appropriate NDT procedures (by persons to be approved) to the testing of permanent joints to pressure equipment.

The emphasis is therefore moved away from a *system audit* against the criteria of, for example, SNT-TC-1A, towards an *individual competence based assessment* taking into consideration the [criteria of European standard EN 473](#) (General criteria for qualification and certification of NDT personnel). However, it is emphasized that the resulting NDT Approval is *not* an EN 473 certificate of competence and will not satisfy the requirements of a number of Harmonized Standards. .

BINDT implements Guideline 6/13 and the CEN TR 15589 for all NDT Personnel Approvals issued under the Pressure Equipment Directive (97/23/EC).

End.



The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing is an accredited certification body offering personnel and quality management systems assessment and certification against criteria set out in international and European standards through the PCN Certification Scheme.

