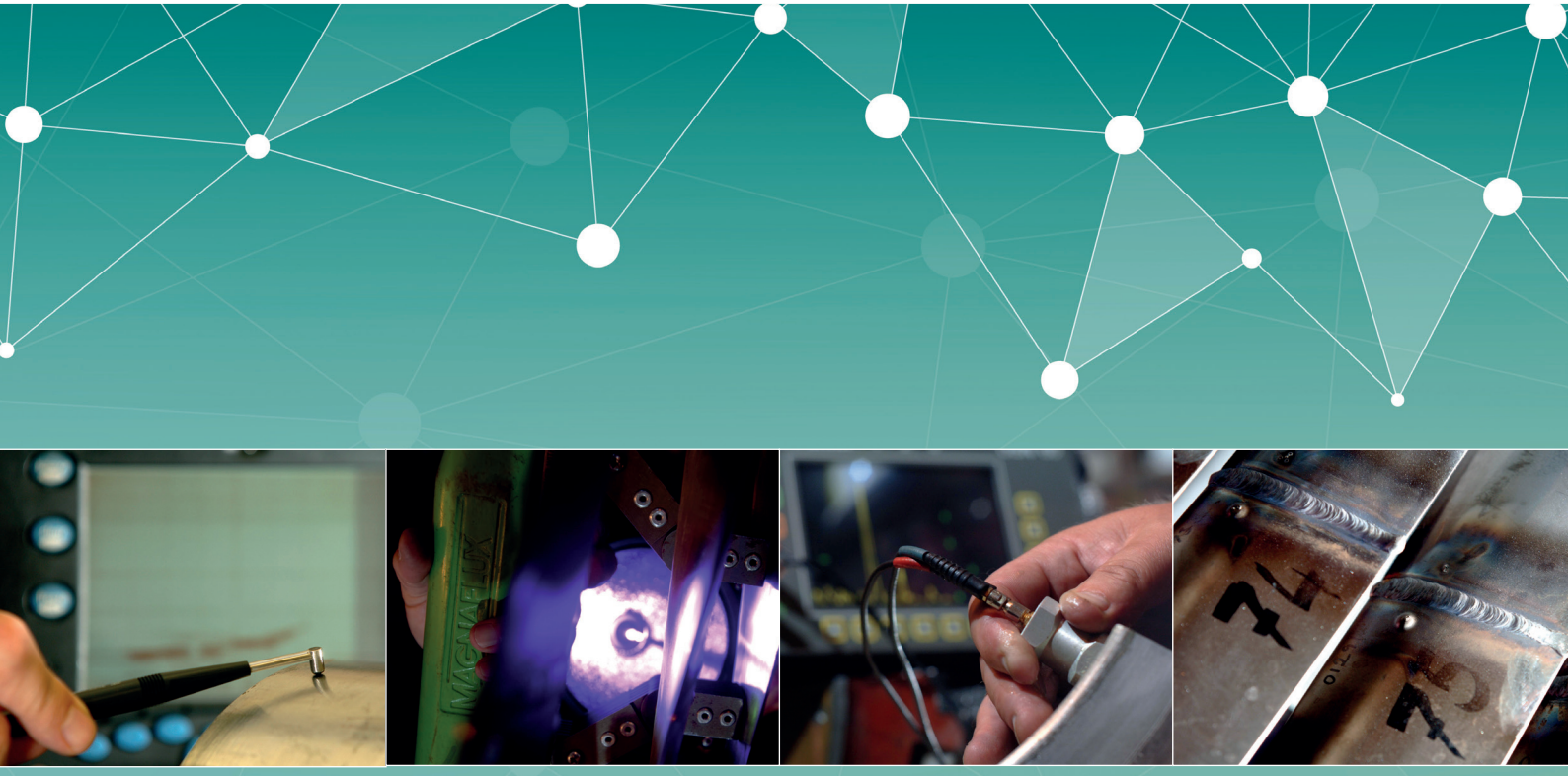
PCN24/PSL10

Operator certification

Issue 2 • October 2026

A division of BINDT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING



Contents

Section	PCN24/PSL10: Content	Page
	Certification Services Department	3
	Relevant personnel certification standards and guidelines	4
	Personnel certification – The options	4
	Personnel certification and quality assurance	5
	An industry-led initiative	5
	Professional service	5
	Developments to suit changing needs	6
	Product Technology online training	6
	PCN certification for personnel engaged in weld inspection	6
	PCN certification for personnel engaged in condition monitoring	7
	Qualification of personnel for UT of shell boiler welds	7
	Worldwide recognition	7
	Examinations wherever and whenever you want them	7
	Quality assured training	8
	Mutual recognition	8
	ISO 9000 quality management systems certification	9
	The European Pressure Equipment Directive	9
	UK National Aerospace NDT Board	10
	BINDT approval of Outside Agency services	10
	Further information	11

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.

©2026 The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing. All Rights Reserved.

This document is protected by UK and international copyright laws and remains the intellectual property of BINDT. Reproduction and distribution of the document without the written permission of BINDT is strictly prohibited.

The Certification Services Department

The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT) is an accredited Independent Certifying Body, complying with the criteria of the European standard BS EN ISO/IEC 17024 (Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons) and offering a flexible, reliable and cost-effective method of satisfying NDT personnel qualification and certification standards, including ISO 9712 (Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel) and ISO 18436-1 (Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machine systems – Requirements for certification of personnel – Part 1: Sector specific requirements for certification bodies and the certification process) and associated technical standards ISO 18436-2, -4, -5, -6, -7 and -8. The accreditation of the Institute for personnel certification activities is signified by the use of the UKAS accreditation logo shown above.

UKAS PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION 0030

UKAS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 0030

The Institute is also accredited to assess and certify/register quality management systems for compliance with the criteria in the international standard BS EN ISO 9001 series and BS EN ISO/IEC 17021 (Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems). The accreditation of the Institute for quality systems certification activities is signified by the use of the UKAS accreditation logo shown to the left.

The Institute's certification services are marketed under the PCN Scheme, which has built up an enviable international reputation for certification of conformity of personnel in the testing, inspection and condition monitoring fields, indicating that the certificated person demonstrates conformity to the relevant documents in performing the defined tasks. The PCN logo, shown on the right, signifies the highest standards in conformity assessment and personnel certification and those who have successfully gained authorisation to use the logo are justifiably proud of their achievement.

BINDT, which owns and operates the PCN Certification Scheme, offers UKAS-accredited certification of conformity for personnel as described in the table below.

The above accreditation covers certification according to ISO 18436 (Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machine systems – Requirements for certification of personnel) and ISO 9712 (Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel).

The aim of the PCN Scheme is also to provide employers with assurance that the qualification criteria of second-party certification standards, such as EN 4179, ISO 11484 and AIA NAS 410, are also satisfied.

BINDT is also accredited against the criteria of ISO/IEC 17024 to certificate personnel for three levels of weld inspection. Details of the competencies are given in PCN24/GEN/APP/WI.

Personnel certification for the Engineering Inspectors scheme provides a BINDT standard and associated programme that is available nationally and internationally for the certification of engineering inspection personnel, which satisfies the requirements of ISO 17024 and UKAS guidance documents RG0 and RG2.

Limited competence certification under ISO 9712 arrangements is provided for personnel engaged in the ultrasonic thickness testing of steel plate.

Sector	Monitoring, inspection and testing methods
Aerospace	Eddy current, liquid penetrant, magnetic particle, radiographic and ultrasonic testing of aerospace materials, components and structures
Castings	Radiographic, eddy current and ultrasonic testing
Welds	Radiographic, ultrasonic (including time-of-flight diffraction techniques and the total focusing method (TFM), including phase coherence imaging (PCI)), alternating current field measurement and eddy current. Weld inspection
Wrought products	Eddy current, ultrasonic testing, alternating current field measurement and ultrasonic limited certification for the testing of manufactured wrought plate
Pre- and in-service (which includes manufacturing) products	Conventional manual ultrasonic testing
Multi-sector and dual sector	Ultrasonic transducer phased arrays, liquid penetrant testing, magnetic particle testing and visual testing of general engineering products (multi-sector covering castings, welds and wrought products) and radiation safety certification
Railway	Liquid penetrant testing, magnetic particle testing and ultrasonic testing of rail and ultrasonic testing of railway axles; liquid penetrant and magnetic particle testing of general railway products (multi-sector covering castings and wrought products)
Condition monitoring	Of machinery using acoustic emission, infrared thermography, lubricant analysis and vibration analysis and ultrasound techniques

Relevant personnel certification standards and guidelines

EN 4179	Aerospace series – Qualification and approval of personnel for non-destructive testing (harmonised with AIA NAS 410)
EN ISO 9712	Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel
ISO 18436	Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machine systems – Requirements for certification of personnel – Part 1: Sector specific requirements for certification bodies and the certification process; Part 2: Vibration condition monitoring and diagnostics; Part 3: Requirements for training bodies and the training process; Part 4: Field lubricant analysis; Part 5: Lubricant laboratory technician/analyst; Part 6: Acoustic emission; Part 7: Thermography; Part 8: Ultrasound
EN ISO/IEC 17024	Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons
PCN CM/GEN*	General requirements for qualification and PCN certification of condition monitoring and diagnostic personnel *(Published by BINDT, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, UK)*
PCN/AERO*	PCN qualification and certification of NDT personnel for the aerospace multi-sector *(Published by BINDT, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, UK)*
PCN24/GEN*	General requirements for qualification and PCN certification of NDT personnel *(Published by BINDT, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, UK)*
PCN/I&T/GEN*	General requirements for the certification of personnel for engineering inspection and testing (includes weld inspection) *(Published by BINDT, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, UK)*
PCN/ISI/GEN*	General requirements for qualification and PCN certification of NDT personnel for in-service inspection *(Published by BINDT, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, UK)*
PCN/ENG/GEN*	General requirements for qualification and personnel certification of engineering inspection personnel
AIA NAS 410	NAS certification and qualification of non-destructive test personnel (harmonised with EN 4179)
***NOTE:** All PCN documents are available at: www.bindt.org/certification*	

Personnel certification – The options

There are two main routes for the qualification of NDT personnel:

In-company certification, for example SNT-TC-1A

In-company certification means that the scheme for examining and certificating inspection and test personnel is controlled by a company procedure. This procedure is usually produced and operated by an independently qualified person who may be employed by the company or be an external consultant. The main advantage of this system is that companies with unusual inspection requirements can ensure that their personnel are only qualified in areas specific to the inspection task.

Independent certification complying with European and international standards, for example the PCN Scheme

Independent central (or third-party) certification means that personnel are required to pass examinations that are devised and set by professional examiners authorised by a Certifying Body, which has overall control of the certification process it operates.

The main advantage of such a system is that independently awarded verifiable qualifications carry wider recognition and acceptance.

The PCN Scheme also offers a system whereby qualification of NDT personnel can be carried out in accordance with European and international standards by an Authorised Qualifying Body (AQB). An AQB is defined as:

> *"A body, independent of any single predominant interest, authorised by the Independent Certifying Body to prepare and administer examinations to qualify NDT personnel".*

PCN document CP23A sets out the general requirements for the creation of BINDT AQBs for the purpose of issuing NDT personnel certification complying with agreed standards. Such a system offers the best of both worlds and has numerous advantages, but beware as not all such certification schemes confer wide recognition and acceptance. You can be confident that by holding PCN certification you will gain the widest possible recognition and acceptance, as well as a highly cost-effective service.

Any organisation – anywhere in the world – interested in becoming authorised to conduct PCN NDT or condition monitoring (CM) examinations is encouraged to seek further information by emailing: audits@bindt.org

Personnel certification and quality assurance

Non-destructive testing, inspection and CM are vital functions in achieving the goals of efficiency and quality at an acceptable cost. In many cases, these functions are highly critical; painstaking procedures are adopted to provide the necessary degree of quality control and assurance. The consequences of failure of engineering materials, components and structures are well known and can be disastrous.

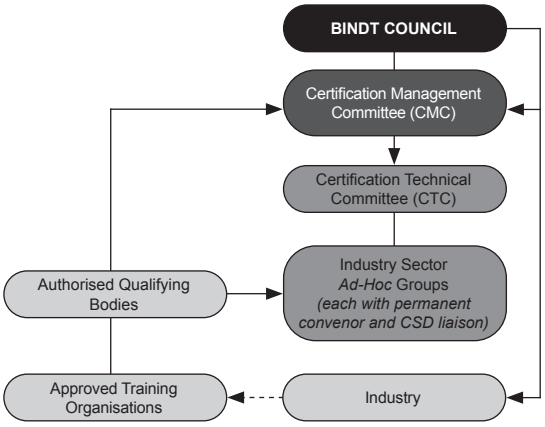
It is an increasing requirement of quality assurance systems that a company's engineers, technicians and craftspeople are able to demonstrate that they have the required level of knowledge and skill. This is particularly so since NDT and inspection or CM activities are very operator-dependent and those in authority have to place great reliance on the skill, experience, judgement and integrity of the personnel involved. Indeed, during fabrication, NDT and inspection provides the last line of defence before the product enters service and, once a product or structure does enter service, in-service NDT or CM is often the only line of defence against failure.

An industry-led initiative

The policy under which the PCN Scheme is operated is determined by an independently constituted Certification Management Committee (CMC), with member organisations representing industry and professional societies both within and outside of the UK.

The PCN Scheme is designed to set and maintain the highest standards for the proficiency of NDT and CM personnel through independent examination and assessment. It is also designed to meet, as a minimum, the criteria specified in relevant European and international standards. PCN is a world leader and puts the user in a strong position to compete in European and world markets.

The management and administration for the PCN Scheme is provided by BINDT from its Northampton headquarters. A Management Committee, nominated by the Institute, is the managing executive and governing board for the Scheme. The Management Committee delegates technical functions to sub-committees, also representative of industry, each with a published constitution and terms of reference.



The Institute welcomes the direct involvement of suitably qualified individuals and organisations in the committees that are responsible for various aspects of the PCN Scheme. Any individual or organisation interested in seeking membership of a PCN Board or Committee is encouraged to discuss their interest with Jennifer Cook (email: jennifer.cook@bindt.org).

Professional service

We believe that there are some tasks better left to professionals. BINDT AQBs are rigorously assessed by independent teams under an experienced lead assessor to ensure that they provide the highest standard of professional service and that the security and confidentiality required of an examination system is maintained.

You can approach a BINDT AQB with the confident assurance that you will get the right advice, the right examination and, having passed the examination, the right certification.

Developments to suit changing needs

Examination availability is constantly extending to meet the needs of industry. BINDT is geared to respond rapidly to new demands. If you believe that there is a need for an examination not presently available through BINDT or PCN, please contact the Technical and Industrial Department of BINDT (email: technical@bindt.org).

If your organisation seeks the benefit of a tailor-made qualification, contact one of the BINDT AQBs directly, as it may be a straightforward matter to set up a job-specific or special examination.

When developing new certification products, BINDT seeks the contributions of experts to develop qualification and certification schemes to serve the needs of industry for personnel engaged in a variety of asset management, testing and inspection tasks, including materials characterisation. BINDT welcomes expressions of interest from experts who would like to contribute to these developments. For further information, contact: technical@bindt.org

Product Technology online training

In response to a demand from industry, ISO 9712:2022, the standard to which the PCN Scheme operates with respect to NDT certification, now requires that all candidates demonstrate a prior understanding of materials and processes, also known as 'product technology', before undertaking training in any method in order to supplement their knowledge of the specific methods and techniques to which they are seeking certification.

To meet this requirement, BINDT has developed a new interactive online Product Technology training course, available worldwide, to help PCN candidates achieve the required knowledge in a convenient way and at a time and pace that suits them.

The online training course includes learning modules covering industrial materials, manufacturing processes and an introduction to NDT, with material presented in a clear and concise format through a range of videos, high-resolution images and graphs. Course content is organised in a logical manner, starting with how metals are created, through the processing of the raw materials to form components and the NDT methods and applications used to inspect them. For further information, visit: www.bindt.org/certification/product-technology-online-training

PCN certification for personnel engaged in weld inspection

The availability of PCN Weld Inspector certification through the network of BINDT AQBs has enhanced the level of service provided through the PCN Scheme, at home and abroad. In addition, the introduction of the PCN Weld Inspection certification scheme in the UK has brought numerous benefits to industry:

1. The availability of PCN Weld Inspection personnel certification has enhanced the range of options available to UK and overseas industry.
2. PCN Weld Inspection personnel certification has achieved international recognition and acceptance.
3. The knowledge that the training and examination provision for weld inspection is underpinned by the support of British industry, through the PCN Certification Management Committee, has resulted in enhanced confidence in the certification.
4. Candidates holding other brands of welding inspector and NDT personnel certification may be granted examination exemptions when converting their present certification to PCN.

The introduction of PCN Weld Inspection certification therefore represents a net benefit to industry (especially since multi-disciplined NDT personnel holding PCN certification are increasingly widely sought) and it is envisaged that PCN Weld Inspection qualification examinations will become more widely available through the UK and overseas network of BINDT AQBs during the year ahead.

Transition to PCN Weld Inspector certification from other schemes

Holders of current valid weld inspection certification issued by other certification bodies (recognised by BINDT) seeking to gain PCN certification for weld inspection at an equivalent level will be required to be successful in the PCN recertification examination.

Holders of current valid weld inspection certification issued by other certification bodies (recognised by BINDT) seeking to gain PCN certification for weld inspection at the higher level will be required to be successful in the PCN initial examination for the level of certification sought.

Further information, including detailed documentation, is available directly from BINDT's Certification Services Department (tel: +44 (0)1604 438300 option 1 or email: pcn.enquiries@bindt.org).

PCN certification for personnel engaged in condition monitoring

PCN certification of competence for personnel involved in vibration analysis, acoustic emission, lubricant analysis and infrared thermography disciplines has been developed and is now widely available through training at Approved Training Organisations (ATOs) and examination at Approved Examination Centres (AECs).

Further information on PCN condition monitoring examination availability can be obtained by contacting the CM department at BINDT (tel: +44 (0)1604 438300 or email: cm.admin@bindt.org) or by visiting the British Institute of NDT website: www.bindt.org/COMADIT/CM-certification

Qualification of personnel for UT of shell boiler welds

The normal process for ensuring the adequacy of NDT is to use procedures developed from codes and standards by personnel with a certificated ability to write such documents. The procedures are then applied by personnel with a known ability to carry out such non-destructive tests. This process has been used over many years and has proved to be perfectly adequate in most applications.

However, there are a number of circumstances where it might be judged appropriate to augment the conventional approach. These arise first whenever the safety or economic consequences of failure are particularly severe. This process of providing additional confirmation of the effectiveness of NDT is known as NDT qualification.

BINDT, in cooperation with the Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed), has developed a system for the qualification of personnel to ultrasonically test welds in shell boilers and to detect, accurately characterise and report any discontinuities present. It has been agreed, in principle, that members of SAFed will recognise the qualifications issued by the British Institute of NDT.

Qualification involves a systematic assessment by all those methods that are needed to provide reliable confirmation of an NDT system to ensure it is capable of achieving the required performance on site. This sometimes includes the use of blind trials, in which those applying the NDT method to test-pieces have no specific knowledge of the defects in those test-pieces. The practical examination component of this qualification consists of a blind trial.

This qualification system is described in a document published by BINDT (IQB/QP1 – Requirements for the qualification of NDT personnel for ultrasonic testing of shell boiler 'T' butt (end attachment) welds and shell longitudinal seam welds and 'D' patch repair). The qualification process described in this document is part of a wider process for the qualification of non-destructive testing drawn up by an Independent Qualification Body (IQB) using CEN/TC 138 WG9 N37 (Report on methodology for qualification of non-destructive tests) as guidance.

Further information on this qualification scheme, which is supported by SAFed, may be obtained from BINDT via email to: jennifer.cook@bindt.org or by visiting the BINDT website at: www.bindt.org/certification/ut-shell-boiler-welds

Worldwide recognition

PCN certification is widely known and highly respected throughout the industrialised world. PCN certificates are accepted as evidence of competence in a number of countries. If ever any difficulty is experienced in certificate recognition, BINDT's Certification Services Department is committed to making every effort to secure recognition for the benefit of certificate holders and their employers.

The potential advantage that seeking independent certification through PCN confers (upon the individual when seeking employment anywhere in the world, or upon the company when dealing with overseas purchasers and suppliers specifying the most rigorous quality requirements) can be considerable.

Few, if any, other independent NDT personnel certification schemes offer a similar level of compliance with such a wide number of standards. It goes without saying that the integrity and thoroughness of the PCN certification scheme carries worldwide respect, earning an enviable reputation.

Examinations wherever and whenever you want them

PCN examinations are available at a number of test and examination centres located in various parts of the United Kingdom, as well as worldwide. Many AQBs have a high degree of flexibility. They can, and frequently do, conduct examinations at any location, including overseas, upon demand.

PCN NDT document PCN24/PSL04 provides details of the national network of PCN AQBs and their examination centres, as well as the PCN examinations available at each. PCN condition monitoring document PSL/04-CM – 'Condition monitoring examination availability' and the CM Approval List provide details of Authorised Examination Centres and Approved Training Organisations worldwide, respectively.

Note that BINDT welcomes enquiries from suitable organisations at any location worldwide that may wish to be considered for appointment as a PCN AQB or ATO. Contact: audits@bindt.org

Quality assured training

To be eligible for PCN NDT Level 1 or Level 2 examinations, candidates must have successfully completed a PCN-approved course of structured training to the appropriate PCN syllabus. PCN CM offers examinations to Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the five disciplines of vibration analysis (VA), acoustic emission (AE), lubrication management (LM), infrared thermography (IRT) and ultrasound (UT). Since 2010, the VA programme has offered four levels of competence in accordance with ISO 18436-2.

Successful completion of a course of training implies that the candidate has attended all training sessions at a PCN-approved training establishment and achieved a satisfactory end-of-course assessment. Approved training establishments will provide trainees and their employers with documentary proof of successful (or unsuccessful) completion of training, together with a recommendation as to the trainee's preparedness for PCN examinations.

The British Institute of NDT operates an accreditation scheme for NDT and CM training organisations. The scheme is centred on the published criteria, CP08-CM – 'Approval of condition monitoring training organisations' and PCN24/CP08 – 'General requirements for the approval of NDT training organisations', and there are a large number of training courses available throughout the United Kingdom and around the world that have been assessed and validated. PCN recognises NDT and CM training courses validated by the British Institute of NDT.

Visit www.bindt.org/education-and-training/bindt-approved-trainers for an up-to-date list of BINDT Approved Training Organisations.

Mutual recognition

PCN is a signatory to, and is registered under, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) managed by both the International Committee for Non-Destructive Testing (ICNDT) and the European Federation for NDT (EFNDT).

The ICNDT MRA is in two parts: 'Schedule 1' and 'Schedule 2'. Schedule 1 comprises a list of national societies/institutes ('parties') that are members of ICNDT and have signed the agreement, committing to supporting the objectives of the MRA. BINDT is a signatory to Schedule 1.

Schedule 2 comprises a list of personnel certification bodies (PCBs) that meet the required criteria and are registered by ICNDT under the agreement. PCN is a signatory to Schedule 2.

Each party to Schedule 1 shall *inter alia* be obliged to:

- commit itself to the pursuance of the objectives of the MRA; and
- promote the recognition and acceptance of the certification issued by PCBs registered under Schedule 2 of the MRA.

A PCB registered under Schedule 2 shall have, *inter alia*:

- confirmed its acceptance of the ICNDT Code of Practice for PCB; and
- provided information on the possible use of AQB and sectorial arrangements and shall have a published code of ethics.

The EFNDT MRA was first ratified at the 6th European Conference on NDT in Nice, France, in October 1994, with the following objectives:

- To promote harmonisation of the operations of the independent NDT personnel certification schemes nominated by the national NDT societies of European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.
- To facilitate recognition of qualifications and certification of NDT personnel in Europe and internationally.

The ICNDT and EFNDT MRAs are thus based upon, and organised and operated along, similar principles.

ISO 9000 quality management systems certification

Provided by the British Institute of NDT for NDT service providers and NDT training organisations

As an accredited Certification Body, the British Institute of NDT is involved, on a continual basis, with the assessment and surveillance of the quality management systems (QMSs) of those organisations approved to conduct PCN examinations and provide PCN-approved training. The Institute is also accredited to offer assessment and certification of the quality management systems of organisations involved in providing NDT services, whether they are training on site, testing in a laboratory or on site, or the provision of Level 3 services.

The benefits of QMS certification

Gaining quality management system certification is not easy, but the rewards can be great. A good QMS can reduce costs incurred through rework, supplier control, staff turnover and lack of effective procedures. A good QMS will improve communication and motivation within your company.

Certification of your QMS inspires the confidence of your clients and makes them feel secure in dealing with you. This is especially the case where they themselves operate in accordance with the criteria of the international standard.

You will also find that your products and services are more widely and readily accepted without audit by regulatory bodies and quality assurance authorities and your company will be included on published lists of approved tenderers and suppliers.

However, it can be daunting when setting out to design and implement a quality system, especially if you have to start with a blank sheet of paper, and it is not unreasonable to question the value of such an exercise. If you would like to discuss the cost of PCN certification of quality management systems, assessments, registration or any other aspect of PCN activities, email the Audit Team at: audits@bindt.org.

Visit www.bindt.org/certification/qms-certification for further information or email: audits@bindt.org

The European Pressure Equipment Directive

BINDT implements a robust certification process with an EU27 Recognised Third-Party Organisation for the certification of NDT personnel.

This process is fully compliant with CEN/TR/15589 Route B requirements and allows BINDT/PCN to issue certification that is acceptable under the European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) 2014/68/EU, Annex 1 § 3.1.3.

BINDT has received an appointment from CASL (an LRQA company), formerly WQ-iC Ltd, a Recognised Third-Party Organisation (RTPO) and Notified Body (NoBo No 2893) based in Dublin, Ireland. For further information, visit: www.inspectioncasl.com

For further information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit the BINDT website at: www.bindt.org/certification/pressure-equipment-directive

For verification of PED recognition, visit the CASL website at: www.inspectioncasl.com/verify-bindt-certification

UK National Aerospace NDT Board

On 4 October 2004, the inaugural meeting of the United Kingdom National Aerospace NDT Board (NANDTB) took place at the premises of Messier-Dowty (now Safran Landing Systems).

The Board is an independent national aerospace body chartered by the following aerospace prime contractors and design authorities and is recognised by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA):

- Airbus UK
- BAE Systems
- British Airways
- Honeywell
- Leonardo Helicopters
- Ministry of Defence
- Rolls-Royce
- Safran Landing Systems
- Spirit Aerosystems

It was formed to satisfy the requirement in EASA Part-145 and also satisfies the requirements of EN 4179. The Board will also provide support and guidance to the UK aerospace NDT industry in relation to compliance with EASA Part-145 and the UK Civil Aviation Authority's Airworthiness Notice number GR23.

The CAA is an observer member of the Board and the British Institute of NDT has been selected by the Board to provide a secretariat.

Among other activities, the Board provides systems to regulate and control the implementation of employer-based NDT personnel certification (or approval) standards within the UK aerospace industry. In furtherance of this, the Board will:

1. Formulate the policy framework for any scheme that it establishes;
2. Maintain an overview of the implementation of its policy by the Secretariat;
3. Maintain an overview of the finances of any schemes which it may cause to be implemented and approve the methods and levels of any charges in connection thereof; and
4. Have the authority to set up working groups and committees, establish their terms of reference and set out the procedures whereby they report to the Board.

The Board also provides a mechanism for maintaining an overview of EN 4179 and PCN (ISO 9712) aerospace qualification examinations.

Further information about the Board's methods of working, membership and terms of reference, together with minutes of meetings and published documents, can be obtained from: www.bindt.org/NANDTB

The UK NANDT Board is a founder member of the European Forum for Aerospace NDT Boards (ANDTBF). Information on the work of the Forum can be found at: www.efndt.org/Organisation/Forums/Forum-on-Aerospace

BINDT approval of Outside Agency services

Background

The United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority's Airworthiness Notice number GR23 was completely revised in 2008 to recognise the principle of industry-based personnel qualification and approval under BS EN 4179 and to reflect the acceptable means of compliance with EASA regulations Part-145. The CAA acceptance of industry-based schemes is based on recognition of the expertise of organisations to develop and administer training and certification schemes appropriate to their operations.

Where an organisation decides to employ an external agency to provide EN 4179 support, then that agency must be subject to audit under the contracting organisation's documented quality system to ensure that compliance with the requirements of GR23 is demonstrated.

Where an external agency is approved under the BINDT Outside Agency Scheme, then the contracting organisation may take due regard of this when planning audit activity.

Where an organisation does not possess the internal resources or technical competence to carry out such an audit, personnel training and examinations will need to be carried out by a BINDT Approved Outside Agency.

BINDT Outside Agencies

Organisations seeking to become Approved Outside Agencies may apply to the Certification Services Department of BINDT. The criteria for approval of Outside Agencies are published in BINDT document OAQS/1. The approval process involves an audit of the applicant organisation by a BINDT-appointed assessor. Organisations that have satisfied all prerequisites for approval under the scheme will be formally approved by BINDT to deliver specified services, including the provision of NDT Level 3 services, and for qualification of NDT personnel against EN 4179 and other criteria.

Visit www.bindt.org/certification/outside-agency-approvals.html for further information and to download the document.

Further information

Further information on any PCN certification service can be obtained direct from the Certification Services Department, The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1604 438300; Email: pcn.enquiries@bindt.org or visit the BINDT website at: www.bindt.org

Issued by Certification Services Department, The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing
Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1604 438300 | Email: pcn.enquiries@bindt.org | www.bindt.org/certification