



Subject: The use of Varifocal Lenses when performing NDT Inspection.

Background:

Concerns have been brought to the attention of UK NANDTB with regard to the impact upon NDT when inspection personnel wear varifocal lenses as vision correction in order to satisfy EN4179 vision requirements. It has been demonstrated that it is possible to pass and fail the Tumbling E eyesight test depending upon which part of the varifocal lens is used. Naturally, the correct part of the varifocal lens is used as an individual focuses on the optotype, whose orientation needs to be determined. However, when performing NDT full field inspection, the indication or defect needing to be observed may lie in an area of view where eyesight acuity is sub optimal when wearing varifocal lenses.

Note: Full field inspection is defined as viewing a part surface, radiograph or digital image with general capability; not directed, not focussed, not enhanced.

Discussion:

The UK NANDTB has not been able to conclusively verify the effects of wearing varifocal lenses whilst performing NDT inspection. Currently, this advisory is being issued to raise awareness of a potential concern and the UK NANDTB would recommend that Responsible Level 3's take due consideration and consider the risks.

Action:

The UK NANDTB would appreciate submission of any experiences or experiments undertaken to determine the effects of wearing varifocal lenses as a consequence of this advisory such that a more defined position can be taken. Please send to the UK NANDTB Chair [jon.biddulph@rolls-royce.com]. Any submissions will be treated confidentially.

On behalf of the UK NANDTB