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UK **NA**NDTB ADVISORY AD-014 Issue 2 (July 2020)

SUBJECT: Extension of EN4179 based approvals due to COVID-19 lockdown

BACKGROUND:

Earlier in the year the UK NANDTB adopted a qualification extension scheme as per AD014 issue 1 – March 2020.

July 2020

After analysing the continued effects of the covid-19 pandemic on the NDT industry across Europe and the uptake of qualification extension scheme, the ANDTB Forum have invoked the right to extend the scheme until November 30th 2020.

The original statement (below) has been amended to reflect this (see highlighted text).

STATEMENT:

From the Chair of the National Aerospace Board Forum:

Due recent circumstances (COVID-19), actions are required in regards to expiring NDT certificates per EN 4179. To reduce the global spread of the current virus pandemic, such expirations of certificates will be caused by e.g. national travel restrictions, employer's travel limitations or containment with very low access to companies because of closure.

The NANDTB of Europe will agree on the harmonized actions as follows:

1. Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications (Level 3 re-qualifying for examinations or needing an additional hands-on practical examination for accepting hardware) **expiring at 31st March to 31st October will be extended to 30th November** 2020, unless otherwise specified, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled by the person entitled for extension:
 - a. Operative continuity in the method/level for which he/she is qualified and certified (EN4179/NAS410 para. 8.3.2);
 - b. During the actual certification, not having been suspended referring to "[...] Individual's performance is found to be deficient in any manner [...]" (EN4179/NAS410 para. 8.3.2);
 - c. During the actual certification, not having been revoked referring to "[...] individual's conduct is found to be unethical or incompetent [...]" (EN4179/NAS410 para. 8.3.3).

2. Employer has to inform the NAA, if affected by those actions.
3. If the NANDTB requests information regarding the herein described actions, it shall be informed accordingly.
4. Postponed recertification examinations shall be performed as soon as possible, even if still covered by the extended period.
5. The original certification date will be unaffected of those actions. For example: A certificate, which will expire on 31st of March 2020, **extended to 30th of November 2020**, will require a recertification at 31st of March 2025.
6. An extension takes precedence over possible future failed recertification examinations for any past period, which is covered by such extension. If recertification examinations take place during an extended certification period, and the individual fails such examinations, certification shall be suspended from that day on. (acc. to EN 4179 para. 8.3.2)

This letter will be distributed to each NANDTB being member of the forum, who shall inform their NAA about the herein described actions.

Chairmen Helmuth Höller

08.07.2020

ACTION:

If an employer requires the use of this extension scheme, they must complete the attached form (AD014_FRM_A) ensuring:

- It is understood that any extension of the approvals under this scheme is the responsibility of the company Responsible Level 3.
- Both annual maintenance and near vision acuity checks are conducted in line with the requirements of EN4179, i.e. they must be maintained as current and valid.
- A copy of the AD014_FRM_A is maintained for audit purposes.
- The qualifying agency be notified as a matter of professional courtesy (use of the AD014_FRM_A may be used for this purpose).
- The completed form **MUST** be signed by the company RL3 and be sent to the UK NANDTB and the CAA at the following addresses.

UKNANDTB@bindt.org

NDT@CAA.co.uk

However, the UK NANDTB would like to positively encourage the Responsible Level 3's to consider whether prolonged use of the extension scheme is absolutely necessary and would like to draw the following to your attention before completing the extension paperwork:

- In March, the implementation of a UK wide lock down was unprecedented and despite continuity planning, nothing could have prepared us for the action the government took. As a result the Forum reacted and took the only action that made sense at the time and developed the extension scheme.

- Since then, the country at large has been able to respond to the situation, procedures have been amended allowing new ways of working and where necessary safe schemes of work to allow actual face-to-face training and examinations to continue while providing a safe environment for all individuals involved. This has been a considerable effort by our service providers. As a result the majority of training and examination providers are now operating full services.
- Although continued extension may still be the only option for some, we must also consider the longer term effects of extending qualifications.

With these points in mind, the UK NANDTB ask the Responsible Level 3's to continue to utilise the extension scheme only where individual circumstances are as follows:

- Where ongoing travel restrictions, local, national or international prevent the required personnel attending the examination venue, whether this be at an examination centre or the candidates place of work.
- Personal circumstances associated with vulnerability and shielding prevent the candidate from attending an examination, consideration should be given to the candidate's wider personal circumstances.
- Personal quarantine – should the candidate be forced to quarantine themselves in line with government requirements that prevents re-qualification.
- Ongoing employee furlough – where employees are held in furloughed status.

Signed for the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Pickup', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Pickup
Chairman of the NAndtB