Subject: Clarification of the content of the Level 3 basic examination per EN4179:2017

Background

EN4179:2017 was ambiguous in terms of the content of the Level 3 basic examination. The interpretation could either be taken as the basic examination must contain questions on the other methods indicated within this standard, per para 1.3 OR the basic examination must contain question on the other methods used, as defined by the employers Written Practice as per para 7.1.2.

There has been no unified view on which interpretation is correct.

Statement

In order to clarify this situation, attain consistency across industry and assist the Outside Agencies in issuing a valid Level 3 basic examination, the Aerospace Non Destructive Test Board Forum (ANDTBF) has taken the initiative to provide direction on what the Level 3 basic examination should contain. Document ANDTBF/10 outlines the agreement from the forum member boards that:

In addition to the minimum 40 general examination questions in the NDT method for which certification is being sought, a separate ‘Other NDT Methods’ examination shall be administered to a Level 3 candidate as a one-time only examination.

The Examination shall comprise general knowledge questions covering at least four NDT methods as required for Level 2 and chosen by the candidate from the list of common methods per EN4179. These four methods shall include at least one volumetric method (UT or RT).

Each NDT method shall be addressed by a minimum of 15 closed book questions, total number of questions is 60 minimum.

The pass mark is 80%. The exam/score is not to be used as part of the composite score.
Actions

As the UK board is a voting member of the ANDTBF, we are bound by the policies of the Forum, therefore with immediate effect, all level 3 basic examinations issued from the date of this advisory, must comply with the above document to be recognised by the UK NANDTB. NOTE: No retrospective action need be taken for previous Level 3 examinations, provided they are maintained in accordance with the standard.

Signed for the Board
Kevin Pickup
Chairman of the UK NAndtB