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BINDT COVID-19 TEMPORARY EXTENSION POLICY

UPDATE: August 2020

After analysing the continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the NDT and CM industry across the globe, BINDT/PCN has identified the need to consider requests for further extension to the validity of PCN certificates under certain uncompromising conditions. This update outlines those conditions.

Closing date for applications: 31st October 2020. Extensions will not be granted beyond November 30th 2020.
Applications via PCN Extension application form 1

It is understood that expirations of certificates may be affected by travel restrictions, employer's travel limitations or containment.

However, BINDT/PCN requires PCN holders 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 lockdown was unprecedented and, despite continuity planning, nothing could have prepared us for what lay ahead. As a result, BINDT/PCN took immediate mitigating action and introduced 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 involved 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 be the only option for some, we must also consider the longer-term effects of extending qualifications.

With these points in mind, BINDT/PCN requests that PCN holders/employers continue to utilise the extension scheme **only** where the following individual circumstances apply:

- Where ongoing travel restrictions, local, national or international prevent the required personnel attending the examination venue, whether this is at an examination centre or the candidate's 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, preventing re-qualification.

Please apply using PCN Extension application form 1 available on the PCN news page



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.

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ORIGINAL BINDT COVID-19 TEMPORARY EXTENSION POLICY (published 9 June 2020)

Starting date of impact: 16 March 2020

End date of extension: 30 September 2020

BINDT is working closely with its AQB's to monitor the situation with recertification exam bookings. Due to the relaxation of lockdown restrictions, the majority of exam centres across the UK and internationally are re-opening in line with government guidance and with Health and Safety measures in place.

With the end date of the extension (30th September 2020) fast approaching, exam centres may experience a surge in bookings and this, along with reduced class sizes to align with social distancing measures, mean that it may be a challenge to facilitate your recertification exam when required.

Therefore, BINDT strongly urges you contact your AQB as soon as possible to check on the current situation and book for your recertification exam in good time.

PCN holders are reminded that it is their responsibility to recertify before the 30th September 2020; after this there is no further extension and the late approval process would have to be implemented.

You can find videos on the BINDT website covering some of the Health and Safety measures that may be adopted by our AQB's www.bindt.org/Certification/pcn-news

BINDT reserves the right to continually review the situation and will make further statements as and when required.

Due to the fast escalation of COVID-19, these are exceptional circumstances and action is required by BINDT with regard to expiring NDT certificates (including PCN Aero and Weld Inspection) as per ISO 9712 requirements and CM certificates as per ISO 18436.

An extension has been applied to original expiry dates as noted below for the **Affected Candidates and Expiry Dates**. The extension will be applied automatically and there is no requirement for application.

In response to the current global situation of national/international travel restrictions, employers' travel limitations and/or the closure of CM/NDT training and examination centres globally as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the British Institute of NDT is proposing to implement the following temporary contingency planning:

1. The validity of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications expiring from 16 March 2020 will be automatically extended to 30 September 2020, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled by the certificate holder/their employer and the certificate(s) is/are eligible for extension:
 - 1.1 The PCN holder has maintained continuity in the method for which he/she is certified and is now applying for recertification:

Certification shall be invalid if:

 - The individual becomes physically incapable of performing their duties based upon failure of the visual acuity examination taken annually under the responsibility of their employer or if their vision examination is expired;
 - The individual's performance is found to be deficient in any manner;
 - A significant interruption* (see definition below) is applicable in the method for which the individual is certificated (the individual does not perform in the method certified for at least 12 consecutive months);
 - The individual fails recertification, until such time as the individual meets the requirements for recertification or initial certification;

- In the case of certification for industrial radiography, the period since the certificate holder has achieved success in a PCN (or recognised equivalent) radiation safety examination exceeds five years; *PCN radiography certification is considered by BINDT to be valid in any country outside of the United Kingdom where the certificate holder has passed an examination covering local radiation safety regulations and provides to BINDT evidence of valid radiation safety certification issued by a recognised independent authority in that country.*

**Significant Interruption – absence from (or a change of) work activity which prevents the holder of PCN certification from practising the duties corresponding to his or her level in the method and sector(s) for which certification was issued, for (a) a continuous period in excess of one year or (b) two or more periods for a total time exceeding two years. Note: Legal holidays or periods of sickness or courses of less than thirty days are not taken into account when calculating the interruption.*

2. Certification that is eligible for renewal via paperwork application is still being processed. Applicants are requested to submit electronically to pcn@bindt.org
 - Level 1 and Level 2 NDT certification – see CP16
 - Level 3 NDT certification – see CP17
 - Level 3 Aerospace recertification following credit system – see CP17A

www.bindt.org/Certification/pcn-exam-requirements-and-document-download/

 - For CM renewal see CP16CM

www.bindt.org/Certification/pcn-exam-requirements-and-document-download/Condition-Monitoring-Documents/

Applicants are advised that there may be a significant delay with the processing of applications due to a limited number of staff working from home.

BINDT is currently working to make the renewal application forms editable PDFs for convenience.

3. The Certifying Body, PCN, which issued affected certificates, shall be informed immediately if any of the above requirements are not being met.
4. Postponed recertification examinations shall be performed as soon as possible, even if still covered by the extended period;
5. The original certification expiry date will be unaffected by the above actions. For example: a certificate that will expire on 4 April 2020 will, under these extension rules, require a recertification exam to be completed by 30 September 2020 and, if successful, will be revalidated for a further five-year period commencing from the original expiry date.
6. Employer responsibilities as detailed in ISO 9712 remain unchanged.

Additional requirements:

It shall be the employing organisation's responsibility to determine whether additional job-specific training and/or examinations, covering the employer's products and inspection processes, are required. This shall be in addition to any central certification issued by PCN. The employing organisation shall satisfy itself that the personal certification detailed on the PCN certificate meets the requirements of the company's written practice or quality system for the purposes of carrying out and certifying NDT inspections on an employer's or customer's product. It is strongly advised that this requirement should be documented within the employer's written practice or quality procedure.

Affected Candidates and Examples:

Note: At this time, candidates and expiry dates not included below have not been granted an extension.

1. Initial certification/Recertification candidates with examinations in process who have a results notice with a latest retest date before or on 30 June 2020.
 - Affected candidates have an additional six months to re-test.
Example 1. An initial certification candidate has until 29 June 2020 to re-examine failed parts of their initial exam. The examination results will now expire on 29 December 2020.
Example 2. An initial certification candidate has successfully passed all of their certification examinations, their post-experience application expires on 29 June 2020. With the extension applied, this application will now expire on 29 December 2020.
2. Renewal and recertification candidates with certification expiry dates of 16 March 2020 to 30 June 2020.
 - Affected candidates will have an additional six months added to their certification expiry date.
Example 1. A renewal and recertification candidate is required to complete their MT2 recertification exam by 15 June 2020. With the extension applied, the recertification exam for MT2 is now due by 30 September 2020. If they do not complete the recertification requirements by 30 September 2020, the certificate will become invalid and they will have until 30 September 2021 to complete the recertification requirements and have their certifications revalidated.
3. Supplementary examinations. Candidates who are due to expire by 30 June 2020 shall recertify/renew the certificate concerned before attempting supplementary examination.

Document references:

PCN GEN <https://www.bindt.org/downloads/PCNGEN.pdf>

PCN Aero <https://www.bindt.org/Certification/pcn-exam-requirements-and-document-download/Aerospace-Requirements-Documents/>

PCN WI <https://www.bindt.org/downloads/PCNWI.pdf>

CM GEN <https://www.bindt.org/downloads/CMGEN.pdf>