

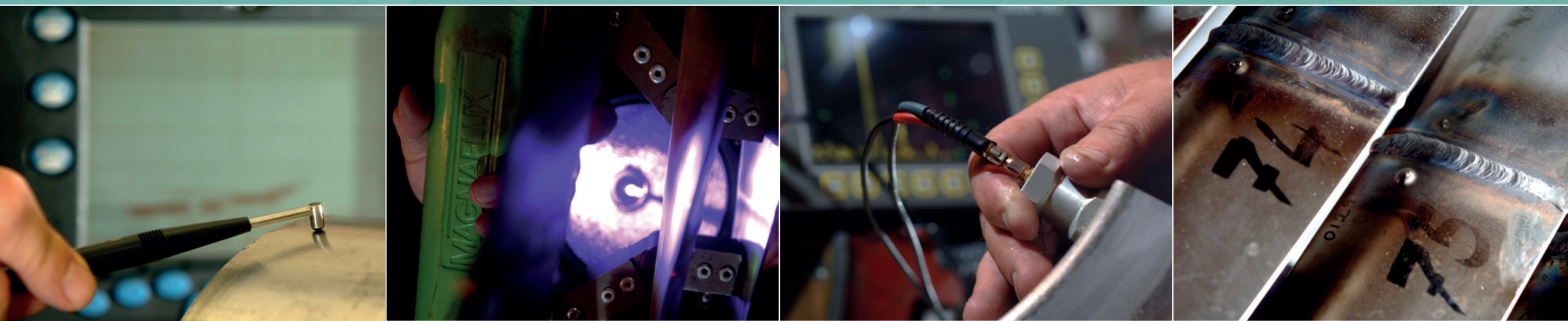
PCN24/CP19

Informal access to BINDT Authorised Qualifying Bodies by third parties

Issue 1 • March 2025



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All Authorised Qualifying Bodies (AQB) authorised by the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT) to conduct PCN examinations have been initially and impartially audited by registered Lead Assessors and remain subject to continued audit and surveillance under the terms of PCN documents PCN24/CP09 and PCN24/CP14.

Indeed, BINDT and the PCN Scheme itself are regularly audited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) against the provisions of European standard ISO/IEC 17024 (General criteria for Certification Bodies operating certification of personnel).

One of the declared aims of the PCN Scheme is to eliminate the need for the costly and wasteful practice of subjecting AQB to repetitive third-party audits, which merely add to the cost and not to the value of certificated personnel. Indeed, this was the primary reason for PCN seeking and gaining accreditation.

The majority of the scripts for PCN written examinations are centrally compiled, validated and controlled, and practical examination specimens held at AQB examination centres are subject to audit and review on a frequent basis in order to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate to the sector and non-destructive testing (NDT) method concerned.

However, the PCN Certification Management Committee has recognised that the requirement to satisfy the quality assurance (QA) procedures of customers will occasionally generate a need for access to an AQB for reasons of establishing the credibility of an examination and have therefore agreed that:

- Industrial users of the PCN Scheme may occasionally require access at short notice to an AQB for the purpose of establishing the credibility of an examination conducted in the past. The agreement to provide such access may be reviewed from time to time and formalised, withdrawn or altered as necessary.
- Companies may require access to an AQB for the purpose of establishing the suitability of the Scheme with regard to possible use for the certification of their employees. The AQB will, subject to approval by BINDT in each case, grant such access at all reasonable times.

Requests for such access to a BINDT AQB should be made initially to the BINDT audits team at: audits@bindt.org

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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