

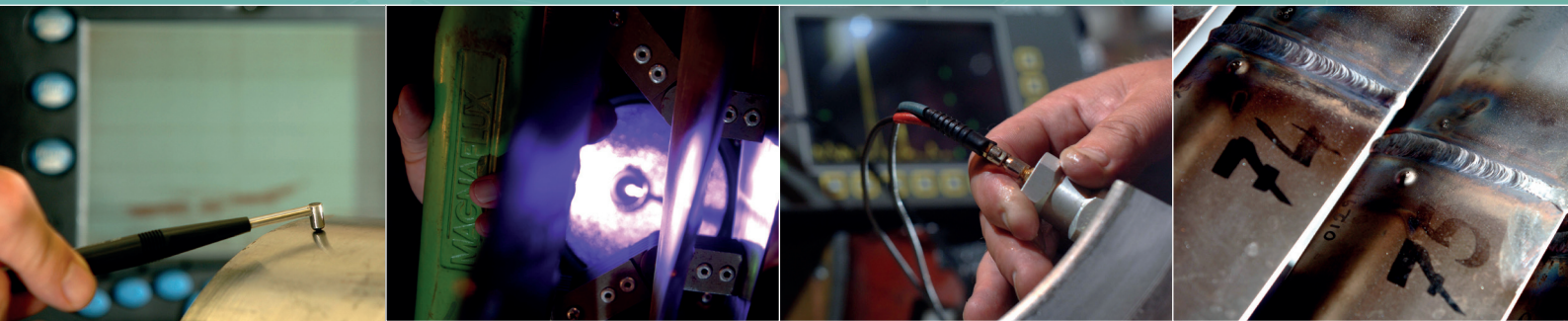
PCN24/CP28

Structured experience programme (fast-track experience)

Issue 1 • July 2025



A division of



1. Introduction

- 1.1 BS EN ISO 9712 (2022) Section 7.3 details the minimum non-destructive testing (NDT) experience required by examination candidates prior to the affirmation of certification. This experience may be gained prior to or post examination, although PCN will not issue certification until such a time that the minimum experience requirements are met. BS EN ISO 9712 (2022) clause 7.3.5 allows for a percentage of the minimum experience required to be attained through a structured experience programme (SEP), which may include fast-track experience gained at a BINDT/PCN-approved body (Approved Training Organisation (ATO)/Authorised Qualifying Body (AQB)).

- 1.2 BS EN ISO 9712 (2022) clause 7.3.5 states:

Up to 50% of the industrial experience time may be achieved by a structured experience programme (SEP). One day of attendance at the SEP may be equivalent to a maximum of five days' industrial experience. The SEP shall include all typical tasks of the level, method and sector concerned. The additional intent is to gain specific product and technique knowledge. The SEP shall be approved in advance by the Certification Body and shall be available for audit by the Certification Body.

The fast-track experience process detailed in this document is approved by BINDT as the Certification Body for the PCN Scheme.

2. References

- 2.1 PCN24/GEN: General requirements for qualification and PCN certification of NDT personnel.
- 2.2 BS EN ISO 9712: Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel.

3. Abbreviations

Table 1. Methods and abbreviated terms

Abbreviated term	NDT method/process	Abbreviated term	NDT method/process
ACFM	Alternating current field measurement	NDT	Non-destructive testing
AEC	Authorised Examination Centre	PA	Phased array (of eddy current or ultrasonic transducers)
AT	Acoustic emission testing	PT	Penetrant testing
ATO	Approved Training Organisation	RI	Radiographic interpreter
AQB	Authorised Qualifying Body (PCN examination centre)	RT	Radiographic testing
BINDT	British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (the Certification Body)	TOFD	Time-of-flight diffraction
CB	Certification Body	TT	Infrared thermographic testing
ET	Eddy current testing	UT	Ultrasonic testing
MT	Magnetic testing	VT	Visual testing

4. Pre-requisites

- 4.1 In order to apply to participate in the BINDT fast-track process, an organisation must be a BINDT ATO.
- 4.2 Organisations wishing to offer the fast-track option must undergo a BINDT extension to scope assessment whereby the process is added to their ATO scope of approval.
- 4.3 Once approved, the process will from then on be included in scheduled ATO audits conducted by BINDT.

5. The fast-track experience process

- 5.1 The ATO shall have a detailed procedure describing how the fast-track process is implemented and controlled within the organisation. The process shall comply with PCN24/GEN and this document.
- 5.2 The candidate is allowed to gain accelerated work experience through the fast-track process. The process shall require the candidate to carry out practical testing on specimens appropriate to the sector, method and level in which certification is sought.

- 5.3 Applicants must have completed a BINDT-approved course of training in the appropriate sector, method and level before they are eligible to be accepted on to the fast-track work experience programme.
- 5.4 The ATO shall follow its standard booking process, ensuring the appropriate sector, method and level of practical specimens are presented to the candidate.
- 5.5 Dates will be agreed with the candidate, taking into consideration the maximum time allowed, being 50% of the total work experience time, and the 1:5 factor, as shown in Table 2.
- 5.6 The ATO shall provide the candidate with a practical work experience log (PCN24/PSL30) in which to record their experience.
- 5.7 PCN24/PSL30 is to be submitted to BINDT along with specimen evaluation reports (example given in Annex 1) when applying for post experience (PCN24/PSL57C) or to an AQB when applying for PCN examination.
- 5.8 The candidate will test a minimum number of specimens per day, as described in Table 3, and present the relevant number of specimen evaluation reports to the trainer/supervisor, who will compare the specimen reports with the master reports.
- 5.9 Specimens used for testing during the fast-track experience process shall not be the same specimens that the controlling ATO or AQB uses for programmed PCN examinations. Specimens identified as training specimens may be used in the fast-track process; however, the candidate shall not have had previous access to the specimens used for fast-tracking (*ie* during their training).
- 5.10 The ATO shall retain master reports for fast-track test specimens showing the location and extent of any known defects. The master reports shall be prepared by a technician holding a minimum of Level 2 in accordance with a scheme acceptable to BINDT (PCN, SNT-TC-1A or EN 4179).
- 5.11 The ATO shall provide the candidate with a written instruction relevant to the specimen.
- 5.12 Where a specimen is tested correctly, the candidate may move on and test another specimen. Where it is not tested correctly, counselling will be provided by the trainer/supervisor and the candidate will be asked to retest the specimen and produce another report. This process will continue until the trainer/supervisor is satisfied that the candidate's report agrees with the master report. Records of counselling must be retained on the candidate's file.
- 5.13 The trainer/supervisor will complete and sign the appropriate section of the specimen report (Annex 1).
***Note:** The report format given in Annex 1 is for guidance only. The ATO is expected to document all specimens in this way. However, the reporting format may vary by method and sector.*
- 5.14 Candidates will also be expected to carry out daily process control checks as applicable to the method and equipment in use.
- 5.15 Once the candidate has successfully completed the agreed fast-track work experience programme, the trainer/supervisor will sign the candidate's completed PCN24/PSL30, a copy of which will be retained in the candidate's file.

6. Qualification of supervisors

- 6.1 All trainers/supervisors will hold at least Level 2 certification acceptable to BINDT (PCN, SNT-TC-1A or EN 4179) in the appropriate sector/method.

7. Documentation

- 7.1 An extension to the ATO's BINDT scope of approval is required prior to an ATO implementing a fast-track process.
- 7.2 The ATO shall have a fully documented procedure detailing the process it utilises and applies to control the fast-track work experience programme.
- 7.3 ATOs are expected to retain fully documented records of all candidate fast-track experience gathering. These records shall be available during scheduled BINDT ATO audits. These records shall be traceable to individual students/candidates and shall include, as a minimum:
 - (a) Student/candidate details;
 - (b) Applicable NDT method and sector;
 - (c) Start and end dates for the experience gathering process;
 - (d) Copies of all Annex 1-type reports for all specimens attempted during the fast-track experience gathering; and
 - (e) Completed PCN24/PSL30 forms, as detailed in 5.15 above.

Table 2. Minimum experience required and permitted reductions through the SEP (fast-track) programme

Method/Level	Level	Minimum work experience required (days)	50% of total work experience (maximum days)	Factor of five reduction
ET, RT, UT, ACFM	1	45	22.5	4.5 days (fast-track work experience)
MT, PT, VT	1	15	7.5	1.5 days (fast-track work experience)
ET, RT, UT, ACFM	2 (with Level 1)	135	67.5	13.5 days (fast-track work experience)
MT, PT, VT	2 (with Level 1)	45	22.5	4.5 days (fast-track work experience)
ET, RT, UT, UT-TOFD, UT-PA, ACFM	2 (direct access)	180	90	18 days (fast-track work experience)
MT, PT, VT	2 (direct access)	60	30	6 days (fast-track work experience)

Notes:

1. One day equates to seven hours.
2. For UT-PA and UT-TOFD, candidates must already hold UT2 certification at 3.1, 3.2 or both.
3. It is recognised that practical training on flawed specimens provides more significant opportunities for finding and sizing flaws than in many workplace environments. Therefore, a factor of 1:5 is applied, allowing a reduction in the above times by a factor of five.

Table 3. Time allocation for specimens tested as contributing to overall time claimed

Method	Product sector/category (if applicable)	Time per specimen (hours)	Specimens required to claim seven-hour day
MT, PT	Pre- and in-service	1.4	5
	Aerospace	1.4	5
VT	Pre- and in-service	1.4	5
ET	Welds	1.4	5
	Forgings/wrought products	2.3	3
	Tubes	2.3	3
RT	Castings/welds	3.5	2
	Rad interpretation	0.5	14
UT	Welds (3.1 and 3.2)	2.3	3
	Welds (3.7)	3.5	2
	Welds (3.8)	3.5	2
	Welds (3.9)	3.5	2
	Castings	2.3	3
	Forgings/wrought products	2.3	3
UT-PA	Welds	2.3	3
	Casting	2.3	3
	Forgings/wrought products	2.3	3
UT-TOFD	Data acquisition	2.3	3
	Data analysis	1.0	7
ACFM	Welds	1.0	7
	Data analysis	0.5	14

ANNEX 1 – EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Date:		Technique:	
Method:		Specimen number:	
Flaw number	Flaw type	Flaw length	Distance from datum
Diagram of specimen showing indications			
Specimen tested correctly:		Yes	No
Sizing accepted:		Yes	No
Corrective action required:			
Confirm counselling provided and recorded on candidate file:			
Candidate signature:		Date:	
Supervisor signature:		Date:	

ANNEX 2 – EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL CERTIFICATE OF EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH THE FAST-TRACK PROCESS

	COMPANY NAME COMPANY ADDRESS	  "ATO NAME" IS A BINDT APPROVED TRAINING ORGANISATION								
CERTIFICATE OF FAST-TRACK WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME This certificate is awarded to CANDIDATE NAME Who has successfully completed a fast-track work experience programme, conducted in accordance with BINDT documents PCN24/CP08 and PCN24/CP28, in the following test method and to the level stated MAGNETIC PARTICLE TESTING LEVEL 2										
Sector: Equipment: Technique(s): Certificate number: Date of issue:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Experience gaining period (dates):</td> <td style="width: 50%;">From:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>To:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total fast-track experience (hours):</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">ATO location:</td> </tr> </table>		Experience gaining period (dates):	From:		To:	Total fast-track experience (hours):		ATO location:	
Experience gaining period (dates):	From:									
	To:									
Total fast-track experience (hours):										
ATO location:										
For and behalf of (ATO company name) Name: Signature: Position:										
Successful completion of this BINDT fast-track work experience programme conducted at an Approved Training Organisation may be used as evidence of eligibility for PCN examination or experience gained post PCN examination										

8. Change control record

PCN24/CP28 – Document issue and review status

Document issue for review	Changes/amendments	Current document status
Issue 01	New document issued, replacing legacy document CP28.	Issued: 1 July 2025.

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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