

# PCN24/PSL49A

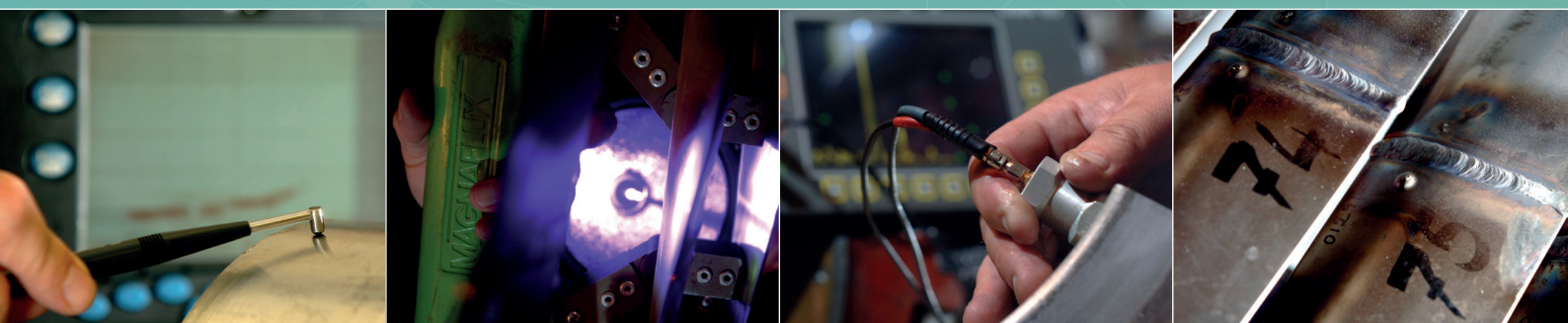
## PCN acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training

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A division of

**BINDT**  
THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF  
NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 PCN examinations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of BS EN ISO 9712 and within the scope of the BINDT ISO 17024 accreditation issued by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). In accordance with those international standards, BINDT is designated as the Certification Body for the PCN Scheme. Within the scope of responsibilities of those accreditations and as detailed in the international standards, a Certification Body is enabled to make decisions on permitted training exemptions or acceptability of alternate training, providing the integrity and compliance of the Scheme is not compromised. Consequently, a systematic and consistent approach to the acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training is required. This document details the BINDT/PCN general policy on the acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1 **Approved Training Organisation (ATO):** a body or organisation approved by BINDT to provide training that meets the requirements of ISO 9712, PCN24/GEN and PCN24/CP08 and is delivered in pursuance of PCN examination and certification.
- 2.2 **Qualifying certificate:** a certificate issued by a Recognised Certification Body and which demonstrates compliance with EN ISO 9712 and covers the same product or industry sector and NDT method as the PCN certification sought. In addition, the NDT level shall be relevant in terms of the exemptions applied for.
- 2.3 **Recognised Certification Body:** a body or organisation that is registered under the latest editions of the European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing (EFNDT) Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) Schedule 2 or the International Committee for Non-Destructive Testing (ICNDT) MRA Schedule 2 against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024 to issue certification in compliance with the current editions of EN ISO 9712.
- 2.4 **National Aerospace NDT Board:** a National Aerospace NDT Board established to control EN 4179 certification within the country concerned. To be acceptable to BINDT/PCN, the board concerned must be a member of the Aerospace National NDT Board Forum (ANDTBF) (see document ANDTBF/02).
- 2.5 **Other certification schemes:** certification schemes that fall outside the parameters and remit of Recognised Certification Bodies as detailed in Section 2.2 above. Such schemes may include:
- **ASNT:** central certification issued by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT).
  - **SNT-TC-1A:** certification issued internally in accordance with an employer's written practice.
  - **EN 4179:** certification within the aerospace sector issued internally in accordance with an employer's written practice.
  - **Non-affiliated or non-accredited ISO 9712 schemes:** ISO 9712 schemes administered by bodies not accredited to ISO 17024 or that are not signed up to either of the MRAs detailed above.

## 3. Policy on acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training or alternate training

- 3.1 The final decision on the acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training remains with BINDT, which retains the right to deny exemptions at its discretion. This applies to exemption applications that fall within or outside the general policies stated in this document.
- 3.2 All applications for the acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training will be reviewed without prejudice before a decision is made on the acceptability of such training.

## 4. Non-approved BINDT/ATO training or acceptable alternatives

- 4.1 This section details scenarios where the acceptability of non-approved BINDT/ATO training or alternative training may be approved.
- 4.2 Tables 1 and 2 detail the scenarios under which alternate training is normally accepted; however, this is not guaranteed and all final decisions remain at the discretion of BINDT/PCN. All other scenarios not listed in Tables 1 and 2 will be considered on merit by PCN/BINDT on a case-by-case basis.

- 4.3 Where the training previously received by a new prospective PCN candidate does not meet the general requirements of ISO 9712, PCN24/GEN and PCN24/CP08 and does not meet the criteria for acceptance as alternate training, the ATO may conduct a GAP analysis of the training previously received against the approved PCN syllabus in the applicable method, technique and product sector. Based upon that GAP analysis, the ATO shall construct a programme of supplementary training to address the gaps identified. Evidence of the GAP analysis and supplementary training delivered should accompany the application form in Annex 1.

## 5. Bespoke training

- 5.1 The ATO shall carry out the required GAP analysis for any 'non-qualifying training or certification' held to ensure the training delivered for the 'non-qualifying certification' aligns with the current PCN training syllabus requirements.
- 5.2 Verification of current 'non-qualifying training/certification' will be confirmed to the candidate by the Authorised Qualifying Body (AQB)/ATO.
- 5.3 From the GAP analysis actioned, the ATO shall develop a bespoke course of NDT training, which shall be agreed by both the candidate and the ATO.
- 5.4 The bespoke training shall be agreed as above and delivered by the ATO in accordance with its scope of approval. Records of any GAP analysis and subsequent training delivered shall be recorded by the ATO and made available to BINDT or its agents upon request (for example during scheduled BINDT audits).

**NOTE:** This section applies to non-approved BINDT/ATO training only. It does not apply to bespoke Level 3 training developed and delivered to candidates already holding other PCN certification where the bespoke training is developed on the candidates prior training, knowledge and certification, as detailed in PCN24/CP08. This bespoke training for Level 3 is based upon the GAP analysis and supplementary training detailed in, and required by, PCN24/CP08 and is subject to audit at annual ATO audits conducted by BINDT.

## 6. How to apply for acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training or alternate training

- 6.1 All claims for acceptance of non-BINDT/ATO training should be forwarded in the first instance to the applicant's chosen ATO/AQB, which will make the initial review and determine whether the evidence of training already received meets the criteria detailed in this document.
- Note:** All PCN AQBs are also BINDT ATOs.
- 6.2 In the first instance, candidates should contact the ATO/AQB, which will advise on its formal application process. A sample form for consideration is given in Annex 1. The ATO/AQB shall determine whether the previous training MEETS the requirements of ISO 9712, PCN24/GEN, PCN24/CP08 and the scenarios detailed in this document then proceed accordingly.
- 6.3 Should the AQB determine that the previous training DOES NOT MEET the requirements of ISO 9712, PCN24/GEN, PCN24/CP08 and the scenarios detailed in this document, the ATO/AQB shall determine whether a full BINDT-approved training course or further supplementary training is considered necessary via the GAP analysis detailed previously.
- 6.4 Where the ATO/AQB is not able to make a definitive decision on acceptability of alternate training, the applicable information shall be forwarded to the Technical Department at BINDT for assistance in the decision-making process. Information should be forwarded to the PCN Technical Department at: **BINDT, Certification Services Department, Midsummer House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX, United Kingdom**, or by email to: [technical@bindt.org](mailto:technical@bindt.org)
- 6.5 All applications should include evidence in support of the application made.
- 6.6 Verification of training conducted in the process of gaining current certification status, issued by bodies other than PCN, will be taken up with the Certification Body that issued the certificate for previous training.
- 6.7 Following the completion of the verification process, the ATO/AQB shall confirm the decision with the applicant and training can proceed as agreed.

**Table 1. Scenarios where non-BINDT/ATO training or alternate training are normally granted for eligibility towards PCN certification at Levels 1 and 2**

| Scenario                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | General theory training | Specific theory training | Practical training |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current certificate issued by another Recognised Certification Body and which demonstrates compliance with ISO 9712 and covers the same NDT method as the PCN certification sought. In addition, the NDT level shall be relevant in terms of the future PCN certification sought. A relevant training certificate showing compliance with BINDT requirements must be provided in support of such applications              | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                  |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current certificate issued by the employer under the requirements of EN 4179, providing the training and examination were administered by an Outside Agency approved by the applicable National Aerospace NDT Board. The certification must cover the same NDT method in terms of the future PCN certification sought. A fully detailed and relevant training certificate must be provided in support of such applications | ✓                       | X                        | X                  |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current certificate issued by the employer under the requirements of EN 4179, where the training and examination were NOT administered by an Outside Agency approved by the applicable National Aerospace NDT Board                                                                                                                                                                                                        | X                       | X                        | X                  |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current certificate issued by the employer under the requirements of SNT-TC-1A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | X                       | X                        | X                  |
| Training delivered prior to gaining ASNT Level 1 or Level 2 ISO 9712 certification centrally issued by ASNT. The training must cover the same NDT method as the PCN certification sought. In addition, the NDT level shall be relevant in terms of the exemptions applied for                                                                                                                                                                                           | ✓                       | X                        | X                  |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current certificate issued by bodies not accredited to ISO 17024 or that are not signed up to either of the MRAs detailed in this document                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | X                       | X                        | X                  |

**Notes:**

1. This table details scenarios where non-ATO or alternate training is normally accepted; however, this is not guaranteed and the final decision on acceptance remains initially with the ATO/AQB or in areas of dispute with BINDT/PCN.
2. All other scenarios not listed in this table will be considered on merit on a case-by-case basis.

**Table 2. Scenarios where non-BINDT/ATO training or alternate training are normally granted for eligibility towards PCN certification at Level 3**

| Scenario                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Training towards PCN Level 3 examination parts |          |          |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---|---|---|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | A                                              | B        | C        | D | E | F |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current Level 3 certificate issued by another Recognised Certification Body and which demonstrates compliance with ISO 9712 and covers the same NDT method as the PCN certification sought. In addition, the NDT level shall be relevant in terms of the future PCN certification sought. A relevant training certificate showing compliance with BINDT requirements must be provided in support of such applications                               | ✓                                              | X*Note 4 | ✓*Note 3 | ✓ | X | X |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current Level 3 certificate issued by the employer under the requirements of EN 4179, providing the training and examination were administered by an Outside Agency approved by the applicable National Aerospace NDT Board (see definitions) The certification must cover the same NDT method in terms of the future PCN certification sought. A fully detailed and relevant training certificate must be provided in support of such applications | ✓                                              | X        | ✓*Note 3 | ✓ | X | X |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current Level 3 certificate issued by the employer under the requirements of EN 4179 where the training and examination were NOT administered by an Outside Agency approved by the applicable National Aerospace NDT Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | X                                              | X        | ✓*Note 3 | X | X | X |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current Level 3 certificate issued by the employer under the requirements of SNT-TC-1A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | X                                              | X        | ✓*Note 3 | X | X | X |
| Training delivered prior to attaining ASNT Level 3 certification centrally issued by ASNT. The certification must cover the same NDT method as the PCN certification sought                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ✓                                              | X        | ✓*Note 3 | ✓ | X | X |
| Training delivered prior to the gaining of a current Level 3 certificate issued by bodies not accredited to ISO 17024 or that are not signed up to either of the MRAs detailed in this document                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | X                                              | X        | ✓*Note 3 | X | X | X |

**Notes:**

1. This table details scenarios where examination exemptions are normally granted; however, this is not guaranteed and the final decision on exemptions remains at the discretion of BINDT/PCN.
2. All other scenarios not listed in this table will be considered on merit by PCN/BINDT on a case-by-case basis.
3. PCN Level 3 examination Part C requires candidates to attempt 15 questions on each of four NDT methods other than the method in which the Level 3 certification is sought. The Level 3 candidate will require additional Level 2 training in the methods where 15 questions need to be attempted during any subsequent PCN Level 3 examination. This does not apply to methods where the candidate is exempt from the 15 Part C questions, as detailed in PCN24/PSL49.
4. Applicants who already hold PCN Level 3 in at least one other method are exempt from examination Part B in subsequent Level 3 examinations (in other methods) and as such are exempt from examination Part B in the subsequent examinations. The training towards the Part B examination is only required for initial PCN Level 3 candidates.

## ANNEX 1 – APPLICATION FORM FOR ACCEPTANCE OF NON-BINDT/ATO OR ALTERNATE TRAINING

| Personal details                                                                                                                                               |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PCN number (if existing PCN holder):                                                                                                                           |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Family name/surname:                                                                                                                                           |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Given name(s):                                                                                                                                                 |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Full postal address:                                                                                                                                           |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Telephone number:                                                                                                                                              |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Email address:                                                                                                                                                 |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| 1. PCN certification sought                                                                                                                                    |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| NDT method                                                                                                                                                     | Level | NDT technique               | Product sector        | Industry sector                      | Scope or category (if applicable) |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| 2. Evidence of previous training claimed in support of application                                                                                             |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| PCN certification currently held                                                                                                                               |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| NDT method                                                                                                                                                     | Level | Training certificate number | Training date(s)      |                                      | Training body                     | Brief summary of training received |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| NDT certification issued by Certification Bodies other than PCN (attach copies of certificates)                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| NDT method                                                                                                                                                     | Level | Certificate number          | Expiry date           | Issuing Certification Body or Agency |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| 3. Details of training reduction(s) sought                                                                                                                     |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Applicants should give details of the training reduction sought with respect to examination elements or parts to be attempted in subsequent PCN examination(s) |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| FOR ATO/PCN USE (as applicable)                                                                                                                                |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Registration number:                                                                                                                                           |       |                             | Exemption(s) granted: |                                      | Yes      No                       |                                    |
| Details of training reductions granted:                                                                                                                        |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| For and on behalf of PCN                                                                                                                                       |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |
| Name (print):                                                                                                                                                  |       |                             |                       | Date:                                |                                   |                                    |
| Signature:                                                                                                                                                     |       |                             |                       |                                      |                                   |                                    |

## 7. Change control record

| PCN24/PSL49A – Document issue and review status |                                                                          |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Document issue for review                       | Changes/amendments                                                       | Current document status |
| Issue 1.                                        | New document issued: PCN24/PSL49A.<br>Replacing legacy document PSL/49A. | 1 February 2025.        |

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