

C/o The British Institute of NDT
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MEETING 25-02 OF THE UK NATIONAL AEROSPACE NDT BOARD

Meeting Date: 11th February 2025
Time: 14:00 hrs
Location: Online

MINUTES

NANDTB/2025/11-02

1. Confirmation of the agenda (and any other business)

Agenda confirmed

2. Attendance & apologies for absence (Annex A)

Kevin Pickup, Guy Lawton, Tracy Grant, Tony Warren, Gary Reay, Tom O'Hare, Andrew Worrall, Clive Worrall, Ralph Duff, Paul Harris, Simon Wright and Julain Barlow.

3. Minutes of the previous (24-10) meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

4. Membership of the board

Kevin lead a discussion on the committee membership updates. It was mentioned that GR-23 will be replaced and opens the floor for challenges to Kevin and Peter's positions as chair and vice-chair. The group reviewed the attendance list and updated committee member information in live time. Several changes are noted, including Clive's upcoming retirement and potential changes to other organisations' representatives. They also briefly touched on reviewing document NAS 410, with Keith and Bill volunteering to assist Craig in the review process.

5. UK NANDTB Document Review

NANDTB/03 – KJP & Pete

NANDTB/05 – Patrick & Ben

NANDTB/09 – Andy Worrall & Todd

NANDTB/10 – Patrick, Pete, KJP, Paul

NANDTB/14 – KJP, Ralph, Guy

NANDTB/16 – Todd, Bryan

NANDTB/18 – Simon, Pete, KJP - For subject of next working group combined with WG31.

Tracy to provide CP08 and OAQS 2 and 7 documents to Kevin for uploading **Action**

6. ANDTBF

2025 meeting schedule

- 20-21st May – Denmark, Copenhagen
- 25-26th November – Netherlands (Local to Schiphol Airport)



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Kevin continued to discuss the evolving nature of the Forum, emphasising its shift from a European to a global aerospace NDT board. It was highlighted that there is a need to address regulatory issues, particularly concerning the UK's status as a non-EU member state. Peter suggested a change in the language used in documents to reflect the Forum's global nature. The board also discussed the need to communicate with the FAA about the US's potential involvement in NDTBs. Simon Wright raised concerns about countries without a board, which could lead to NCRs.

The board agreed on the need for proper adoption of the PCN aerospace scheme at a Forum level and convincing the US of the need for NDTBs. The conversation ended with the recognition of two possible approaches: mandating the use of NDTBs through the FAA or convincing US primes of the benefits of NDTBs.

7. WG15 – Harmonisation

Overview of process

Kevin and Tony provided an update on the harmonisation process for a new standard. It was reported that the process is nearing completion, with a draft document produced. There are some issues with table construction that need to be addressed. While working with the US team has been largely positive, Kevin notes the need for a clearer decision-making framework in the future to ensure equal representation. A clarification guide will be published alongside the standard to help interpret changes and provide guidance on implementation.

Kevin also mentioned a proposal to remove the bias against previous education levels in the competency matrix. Peter suggested that this would allow someone without higher education to progress from level 2 to level 3 in a year.

Kevin discussed the upcoming board meeting's agenda, focusing on the ethics statement and certification revocation. It was mentioned that a proposal to maintain the status quo on the new wording. Peter added that the US lacks a regulatory body, leading to a meandering course of discussion on revocation and reinstatement. The board agreed to be cautious about wording to avoid union concerns.

It was also discussed that the introduction of a standalone examination for other methods, similar to the PCN basic exam. Patrick briefed the board on the upcoming release of the BINDT online training modules for product technology.

Kevin highlighted the need to address automation of NDT processes, extending the standard to new techniques, and providing better general guidance for formal training.

8. UK NANTB Objectives Going forward

8.1 Automation of NDT processes

Kevin led a discussion about an updated version of a document that was sent out to a limited group. The document included examples and had undergone minor grammatical changes. Peter proposed adding a paragraph to the document to address the issue of partially or fully automated inspections, suggesting that a Level 3 person certified in the test method should review each part of the inspection to determine if specific NDT knowledge and skills are required. Patrick raised the issue of developing a module for automated inspection and AI, and Peter and Kevin agreed to volunteer for the working group. Tom discussed the use of automated systems and the need for a review by a minimum of a Level 2 or 3 in the technique for non-NDT approved personnel. The team agreed to further discuss the education around digital data processing in formal training.



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8.2 New techniques general guidance that covers formal training and experience as well as examination – further development of NANDTB_18

Kevin announces that a paragraph will be inserted into NANDTB-18 and the document will be sent out for further review. He emphasized the need to roll out the document quickly, aiming to have it finished by the first week of April to coincide with the aerospace conference and the first face-to-face meeting. The group then discussed various scenarios in the document, focusing on consistency in formatting and the requirements for requalification in different inspection techniques. They debate whether the same test piece can be used for multiple qualifications, ultimately agreeing that test pieces should be unseen and unknown to maintain the validity of the qualification process. Kevin to send out NAS 410 and NANDTB-18 for review and organise a separate session to discuss it further. **Action**

The team discussed the categorisation of materials and techniques in their standards. They agreed to include the distinction between ferrous and non-ferrous materials in the examples, as it was not explicitly mandatory in the table. They also decided to change "aluminium" to "non-ferrous" in the table and examples to ensure consistency. The team also discussed the need for clear guidance on the use of frequencies and displays in their equipment. They agreed to add a note in the document stating that further test samples may be appropriate if there are significant differences in materials, product, technology, and form technology. The team also discussed the need for training personnel to ensure their qualifications meet the intended standards.

Peter proposed changes to the ultrasonic testing (UT) certification requirements. He suggested that demonstrating competence in phased array, contact, and immersion techniques on different materials (metallic and composite) should allow for a broad approval scope, even if specific combinations weren't tested. This "mix and match" approach would be the minimum baseline, with employers able to add further limitations if desired. The board discussed how this would apply to other NDT methods like eddy current and penetrant testing. They agreed to modify the wording in scenario UT2 to reflect this more flexible approach, emphasizing that additional practical exams would only be required for significantly different techniques. Peter also questions the need for a minimum of three practical test pieces for qualification, suggesting that two pieces could sufficiently demonstrate the required competencies.

All Board members to consider and submit ideas for industry improvements to be addressed by the Board **Action**

Kevin to set up working group sessions for focusing on longer-term tasks **Action**

Gary to confirm availability of Leonardo's new research and innovation facility for hosting the October meeting. **Action**

9. OA/IA Group

Keith to organize a meeting for the Outside/Inside Agency Group **Action**

10. Regulators Update – (MAA/CAA)

CAA - What is replacing CAP 747 (GR23) – GR23 is a crucial document in confirming recognition of the UK NANDTB by the nations CAA for third party recognition. Paul Harris provides updates on several regulatory matters. He explains that the issue of inside-outside agencies affecting UK industry needs to be addressed by the affected companies complaining to their Affairs, as it's not within the CAA's scope. Paul also mentions recent communications about titanium traceability from Chinese suppliers, urging production approval holders to provide feedback. Lastly, he discusses the



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upcoming transfer of GR-23 content to AMC and GM of relevant regulations, assuring that the information will remain but in a different format. Paul outlines the process for this change, including internal approval and a four-week industry consultation period, promising to notify the board when the consultation begins.

Paul Harris updated the team on the progress of their internal review, indicating it would likely take another couple of months.

Paul to notify the Board when the consultation for the transfer of GR 23 content to AMC and GM goes out. **Action**

11. UK NANTB Executive Board members

Nominations for Vice-chair and Chair

12. Any Other Business

Audit review team – Kevin then discussed the need for a new order review team, with Tony, Andy, and Ralph already on board, and sought additional volunteers. Julian and Andy agreed to join the team.

Audit over sight schedule for 2025: Kevin mentioned the need for a list of scheduled audits for the year, which Tracy agreed to request from Tara. **Action**

NANTB Website Review – focused on tidying published docs, archives etc.

13. 2025 meeting Schedule

Kevin outlined the meeting schedule for the year, with two physical meetings planned for April and October, and an online meeting in July. He also mentioned the need for additional working group sessions. Gary offered to host a meeting in October, and Simon Wright suggested using a training school as a backup.

Feb 11th – Online

April 3rd – Coincide with aero symposium – (PHYSICAL – Argyll Ruane to Host)

July 1st – Online

Oct 7th – In Person – Leonardo Helicopters

Dec TBC – online – if needed