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UK NANDTB ADVISORY AD-016 issue 2

SUBJECT: Temporary remote examination procedure for the extension of EN4179 NDT certification resulting from on-going COVID-19 travel restrictions.

BACKGROUND:

EASA have confirmed to the EF NANDTB and regulators that no further extensions to EN4179 certifications will be granted. Therefore inspectors whose certification has been extended to 30th Nov 2020 under the current temporary recertification policy in accordance with AD015, or who hold certification expiring thereafter, must recertify by examination.

The UK NANDTB wish to make clear that within the UK Outside Agencies (OA) are open and operating, and that re-certification for UK inspectors shall be in accordance with UK NANDTB requirements.

It is recognised however that UK OAs also provide support to companies overseas and that where travel and quarantine restrictions prevent either the examiner travelling to the customer's site, or the candidate from travelling to the OA organisation, then revised procedures shall be required to comply with EASA's mandate.

Therefore and in order to demonstrate compliance it has been agreed that temporary, remote, real-time examinations maybe used. This document provides the UK NANDTB guidelines for this process.

STATEMENT:

Where travel, in accordance with international regulations permits, EN 4179 certification renewal shall be undertaken in accordance with normal UK NANDTB procedures.

However, where travel in accordance with international regulations is not possible then those Outside Agencies wishing to support their clients with remote examinations shall have a procedure in place which details the process they use in order to maintain the safety and security of the provided remote examination. This alternative examination procedure will be available for use until the 30th November 2021. After this time, normal qualification in accordance with EN4179 will resume. The UK NANDTB has provided the following key points for clarification:

1. Who is eligible for remote examination?
 - a. Existing clients of the Outside Agency may be supported with remote examinations. These shall only be applicable for the Recertification of Candidates initially qualified by the OA providing the recertification examinations.

- b. Previously qualified individuals that are known to the Outside Agency who have recently transferred organisations – in this circumstance supporting evidence must be provided before approval granted.
- c. All candidates with a minimum of 30 hours documented recent experience processing parts or performing evaluation of results in actual maintenance environment in the 12 months before the examination.

NOTE: If a recertification examination under this advisory is failed, then ONLY one re-sit attempt may be made using this procedure. In addition any remedial action must be documented and agreed by the RL3 and a separate application detailing the situation must be made to the UK NANDTB to allow completion of the re-sit. The board has the right to refuse a re-sit, in which case, recertification must be done in person as per normal EN4179 requirements.

2. Invigilator

The OA will appoint an Invigilator at the client company, and provide a detailed briefing on the duties of invigilation. The Specific Theory Paper will then be transmitted securely to the invigilator and shall be administered by the invigilator to the candidate in accordance with the requirements within EN4179. The paper shall be returned securely to the OA for marking, and all copies, including electronic copies of the Specific Theory paper, shall be destroyed by the Invigilator.

3. Examiner

The Examiner shall be one of the OA's authorised Examiners, as named on the OA's Quality System's approved Examiner list for the method in use.

4. Specimens

- a. Examination specimens shall be sent by the OA to the client company for the Practical Examination by secure means so as not to compromise the integrity of the specimen.
- b. Examination specimens shall be returned to the OA, by the client company, by secure means so as not to compromise the integrity of the specimen.
- c. The UK NANDTB expects OA's to provide details of sample security.

5. Live Practical Examination

- a. At an agreed date and time, a live Teams/Zoom/Webex/Skype session will be instigated (other platforms that provide uninterrupted live communication between OA and the candidate may be used).
- b. The Examiner will observe the Practical Examination remotely using the live video feed.
- c. The candidate will be alone in the testing environment, with the Invigilator who shall operate the remote link and facilitate the examiner requests.

- d. Where there is a temporary loss in communications the invigilator shall stop the examination and the examination shall not re-commence until all live links can be restored.

6. OA operations

- a. The OA will advise the UK NANDTB and CAA of exams scheduled for the coming week, no later than Friday of the prior week. This shall be done using the form below and emailed to UKNANDTB@bindt.org and NDT@CAA.co.uk
- b. Observers from the UK NANDTB may advise the OA of their intent to join the examination session by remote means for the purpose of oversight. The OA shall provide details of the session and facilitate monitoring to all concerned parties.
- c. Specimens used remotely may not be used for candidates from this client company for a period of two years.
- d. Any Specific Theory Paper used for remote exams is deemed to be single use and shall not be used in another certification examination.

7. Certificates

- a. Certificates of Examinations conducted in this way shall include this document title and reference, and shall be valid for 12 months.
- b. The UK NANDTB reminds all using this process that Certificates may be revoked prior to expiry at the Boards discretion.

While the Board has considered the implications of this process, it is recognised that there will be exceptional situations which need to be considered on a case by case basis, and the process remains under review.

STATEMENT FROM THE UK CAA

The integrity of examinations along with the security of exam questions and test samples shall be assured at all times. Any breaches or evidence of misconduct shall be reported to the National Aviation Authority and the UK National Aerospace NDT Board.

Signed for the Board



Kevin Pickup
Chairman of the NAndtB