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INFORMAL ACCESS TO BRITISH INSTITUTE OF NDT AUTHORISED QUALIFYING BODIES BY THIRD PARTIES

All Qualifying Bodies (AQB) authorised by the British Institute of NDT (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 CP9 and CP10.

Indeed, BINDT and the PCN Scheme itself are regularly audited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Services (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 AQBs 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 Authorised Qualifying Body 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 NDT method concerned.

However, the PCN Certification Management Committee has recognised that the requirement to satisfy the 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 reasons 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 The agreement to provide such access may be reviewed from time to time and formalised, withdrawn or altered as necessary.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 AQB for purpose of establishing the suitability of the scheme with regard to possible use for the certification of their employees. AQB will, subject to approval by BINDT in each case, grant such access at all reasonable times.

Requests for such access to a BINDT Authorised Qualifying Body should be made initially to the Head of Certification at the above address.

