



*The World Organisation for NDT*

ICNDT Working Group (WG1) on NDT  
Personnel Qualification & Certification

**A progress report on development of systems for  
Peer Review and Approval of Certification Bodies  
and a Global Multilateral Recognition Agreement**

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# INTRODUCTION

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This presentation reports on the events leading to, and progress in the WG1 development of ICNDT systems for:  
A Global Multilateral [Recognition of NDT Personnel Certification](#) in conformance with ISO 9712, and  
Assessment against ISO/IEC 17024 criteria, and ICNDT [Approval of Personnel Certification Bodies](#) (PCB) issuing ISO 9712 certification of personnel.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GUIDE

[The ICNDT Guide](#), agreed by the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 ICNDT Workshop at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Conference , included, amongst others, the following recommendations:

1. Share experiences on the development and operation of Multilateral Recognition Agreements on NDT Personnel Certification, and
2. Work towards an ICNDT initiative to achieve recognition of personnel certification between the ICNDT regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Pan-America and Europe)

# INITIATION OF THE WORK PLAN

- [WG1](#) first met during Asia-Pacific Conference in Yokohama, Japan, November 2009, where it decided on the scope of the documentation required to support the work that had been set out in an [action plan](#) approved by the ICNDT Executive Committee.
- To be sure that there was wider support for this work, a survey of ICNDT members was conducted in January 2010 at the direction of the ICNDT Executive Committee.
- The results of this survey were reviewed during the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on NDT, held in Moscow during June 2010.

# NATURE OF THE JANUARY 2010 SURVEY

Questions posed in the January 2010 survey of ICNDT members:

- A. As the ICNDT member body, does your NDT Society own, administer or manage an NDT Personnel Certification Scheme?
- B. If the answer to A is yes, does the scheme comply with ISO 9712:2005 (or national applications of the international standard), or with a regional standard such as EN 473:2008?
- C. If the answer to A is yes, does the scheme comply with ISO/IEC 17024?
- D. If the answer to A is yes, is the scheme accredited?
- E. Would your certification body wish to participate in an ICNDT Global Agreement on Multilateral Recognition of certification?
- F. Would your certification body be interested in participation in an ICNDT administered assessment and approval system in place of or to supplement national accreditation?

# RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

NDT Society response rate:	60%
% of respondents indicating that the ICNDT member provides an NDT Personnel Certification Scheme:	71%
% of those answering Yes to A (does your Society own, administer or manage an NDT personnel certification scheme?) whose scheme satisfies either EN473 or ISO9712:	100%
% of those answering Yes to A whose scheme satisfies ISO/IEC 17024:	96%
% of those answering Yes to A whose scheme is accredited:	60%
% of those answering Yes to A that would participate in an ICNDT Global MLA:	96%
% of those answering Yes to A that would consider ICNDT approval as an alternative, or in addition to, accreditation:	85%

# RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

- The survey indicated overwhelming support for an ICNDT Multilateral Agreement on Recognition of NDT Personnel Certification, as well as for an ICNDT system for assessment and approval of NDT Personnel Certification Bodies (PCB) in accordance with [ISO/IEC 17040](#) (Peer Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies)

# ICNDT ENDORSEMENT

- On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the 34th ICNDT meeting gave recognition to the work undertaken by WG1, and signalled its support for the continuation of the work that leads to the development and implementation of ICNDT systems for a Assessment and Approval of NDT Personnel Certification Bodies and a Multilateral Agreement on Recognition of personnel certification (MRA) issued in accordance with ISO 9712.



# PROGRESS AS AT OCTOBER 2010

- Much progress has been made by email, and the documented processes for assessment, approval and multilateral recognition of certification bodies were finalised at a WG1 meeting in Vienna during September 2010.
- System documents have recently been circulated for information to ICNDT members, and there is to be a meeting of WG1 in Houston, Texas, on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at which any comments received will be reviewed, and
- the management and administrative processes and procedures will be decided, together with a business plan assuming implementation early in 2012.

# CONCLUSIONS

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These two major developments have the potential to provide:

- A truly global Multilateral Agreement for Recognition of NDT Personnel Certification, and
- A meaningful assessment and ICNDT approval system for personnel certification bodies to enhance or, where appropriate, supplant existing accreditation

# CONCLUSIONS

This will have the beneficial effect of:

- Harmonising the qualification and certification activities of NDT Personnel certification in the four ICNDT Regions
- Increasing the recognition and specification of third party qualification and certification through amended codes
- Improving the freedom of movement of personnel and products across national borders
- Reducing the cost to individuals and industry of NDT personnel qualification and certification

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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- ICNDT Assessment and Approval of NDT PCB
  - ICNDT Global Multilateral Recognition of Certification
- ← A win/win situation!