



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

*The World Organisation for NDT*

*Certification Executive Committee*

## **Annual Report of the ICNDT Certification Executive Committee**

### **Certification Executive Committee Constitution**

The ICNDT Certification Executive Committee (ICEC) is constituted by ICNDT Operating Procedure (OP) number 18, which was approved during the April 2012 (18<sup>th</sup>) World Conference on NDT in Durban, South Africa. OP18 states that the Committee is empowered to set up Working Groups and Committees to execute specific tasks, and it is required to report on the work of such groups to the ICNDT Policy and General Purposes Committee, and to the ICNDT General Assembly.

The ICEC has seven members including a Chairman, one representative of a Signatory to the MRA from each of the four ICNDT Regions, the ICNDT Treasurer and the Chairman of WG1.

The Members are appointed by the General Assembly (GA) for a term of office lasting two years until the subsequent GA (with the potential for renewal thereafter).

The present ICEC members are:

- Patrick Fallouey (ICEC Chairman)
- Alexander Mullin (WG1 Chairman)
- David Barnett (Asia-Pacific region)
- Gerhard Aufricht (ICNDT Treasurer)
- Jim Guild (Africa region)
- João Rufino Teles Filho (Pan-America region)
- Matthias Purschke (Europe region)

Other than where CEC membership is automatic (the Treasurer and WG1 Chairman), the Members and Chairman of the CEC are proposed by the ICNDT Executive Committee (IEC), taking into account the views of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (PGPC).

### **ICEC Method of working**

The CEC is responsible to the IEC for planning its work, taking into account the ICNDT Strategic Plan and the system requirements of the MRA and PCBA. The Committee ordinarily works by consensus, holding physical meetings in association with each GA and/or telephone/internet conferences as appropriate. Voting is by simple majority with a quorum of 50% of the membership. In the case of a tied vote the Chairman has a casting vote.

The ICEC Chairman is responsible for publicising the activities of the CEC on the ICNDT website and in the ICNDT Journal, reporting on the work of the ICEC to ICNDT Working Group 1, and providing a progress report and forward work plan to each PGPC meeting.

The Committee drafts for approval by the IEC an annual income and expenditure budget covering the management and administration of the MRA and PCBA, and the Chairman (or a nominated member of the ICEC) is responsible for reporting the activities of the CEC to the IEC, attending meetings when appropriate by arrangement.

Because of the confidential nature of some of the work of the ICEC, attendance at ICEC meetings is limited to the officially appointed Members, and the day to day work of the ICEC is carried out by the CEC Secretary ([icec-secretary@icndt.org](mailto:icec-secretary@icndt.org)).

## **ICEC Responsibilities**

The principle responsibilities of the ICEC include the management of activities relating to NDT personnel certification, including the ICNDT Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA), the ICNDT Personnel Certification Body Conformity Assessment (PCB CA) systems and an ICNDT Bank of Multi-Choice Examination Questions.

## **Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA) – OP19**

### **Background**

The work of developing the ICNDT Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA), which is based upon compliance with EN ISO 9712, was entrusted to the ICNDT WG on Qualification, Certification and Accreditation (WG1).

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the ICNDT MRA are to harmonise the operations of participating Personnel Certification Bodies (PCB), and achieve widespread recognition of NDT personnel certification issued by PCB registered under the ICNDT MRA. The implementation and operation of the ICNDT MRA is the responsibility of the ICNDT Certification Executive Committee (ICEC).

### **Obligations**

The signatories to the ICNDT MRA are the full and associate members of the ICNDT that choose to support the agreement, which is indicated by signing Schedule 1 of the MRA. It should be noted that signatories are not, of necessity, owners or operators of NDT personnel certification schemes.

Each Party that is signatory to the ICNDT MRA undertakes to:

- pursue the objectives of the ICNDT MRA;
- promote the recognition and acceptance of the certification issued by PCB registered under the ICNDT MRA;
- assist other interested parties by giving a clear overview of the NDT personnel certification activities in their own country;
- advise interested parties on how the quality of NDT depends on the correct use of personal certification by the employer as explained in the ICNDT Guide to personal certification for NDT and in EN ISO 9712
- provide other parties with non-confidential information on the certification scheme(s) operated by PCB registered under the ICNDT MRA, and
- consult with and seek membership of the scheme committees and technical committees of NDT PCB in their own country

### **Registration**

To gain registration under the ICNDT MRA, Personnel Certification Bodies (PCB) shall be:

- proposed for registration by a signatory to the ICNDT MRA, and
- in compliance with ISO 9712, and
- accredited by a body recognised by the ICNDT, or
- assessed by the ICNDT to demonstrate conformity with EN ISO 9712.

## Recognition of certification issued by registered PCB

Those ICNDT members that have *signed* the MRA have thereby *agreed to recognise and promote acceptance in their own country* of all certificates issued by PCB registered by ICNDT in accordance with the Agreement. Signatories will be listed in a document, Schedule 1, published at [www.icndt.org](http://www.icndt.org)

## Registration of PCB

The PCB which have been accepted for registration by the ICNDT under the MRA, and are thus recognised by all of the signatories to the Agreement, are listed in Schedule 2, which will be published at [www.icndt.org](http://www.icndt.org)

## Personnel Certification Body Conformity Assessment (PCB CA) – OP20

### Background

Representatives of the members of the International Committee for Non-Destructive Testing (ICNDT) have recognised the need for a peer review system for Conformity Assessment of NDT Personnel Certification Bodies (PCB) as a complement or alternative to accreditation.

The work of developing the system, based upon the principles enshrined in ISO/IEC 17040 (Conformity assessment – General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies), was entrusted to ICNDT WG1 for Qualification, Certification and Accreditation.

### Objective

The ICNDT conformity assessment system is intended to facilitate participation in the ICNDT MRA by those Personnel Certification Bodies (PCB) that are unable to utilise national accreditation or, for other reasons, prefer to undergo conformity assessment by ICNDT.

### Certification of Conformity

To demonstrate conformance under the ICNDT system, the applicant PCB shall:

- make formal application to ICNDT for assessment against specified criteria, e.g., ISO/IEC 17024 and EN ISO 9712,
- sign an undertaking to comply with the ICNDT Code of Practice (CoP) for NDT PCB,
- undergo assessment by an ICNDT appointed team of appropriately qualified assessors to demonstrate compliance with the applicable criteria.

An ICNDT certificate of conformity, which is awarded following a final review of applications and assessment reports by the ICNDT Certification Executive Committee (ICEC), is valid for a period of two or three years from the date of issue, and is renewed following a successful re-assessment.

### How is conformity announced?

The PCB which have been assessed by the ICNDT and found to conform to the assessment criteria will be issued a certificate of conformity, and their scope of conformity will be published at [www.icndt.org](http://www.icndt.org).

## Examination question bank (EQB)

### Background

In the 1990's, recognising the need to harmonise European PCB operations, the British, French and German NDT societies embarked upon the development of a European Federation for NDT initiative called the European Certification Programme (ECP). In the event, it was decided not proceed with the implementation of this programme, but one of the spin-off's was a bank of over 6,000 multi-choice examination questions donated by the three NDT societies, who agreed to make this available for a one-off purchase fee of €7,500 to eligible PCBs (eligibility centred on participation in the EFNDT MRA). Subsequently, the EFNDT agreed to make this resource available to the ICNDT as a basis for the development of a globally available examination question bank.

### EQB content

This EQB presently contains over 6,000 questions (see detail in Table 1) in the English language and, under an IAEA funded project, these are presently undergoing translation into the Spanish language.

**Table 1 – catalogue of questions**

METHOD	SECTOR	L1	L2	L3	TOTAL
Radiation safety	General	95	138	0	233
ET	Aerospace	0	32	100	132
ET	General	149	272	167	588
ET	ISI	8	27	0	35
ET	Tubes	0	73	0	73
ET	Welds	24	36	0	60
ET	Wrought products	11	58	0	69
MT	General	94	90	84	268
MT	ISI	151	245	206	602
Product tech	Multi-sector	0	133	215	348
PT	General	161	160	93	414
PT	ISI	80	238	70	388
RT	Aerospace	0	140	1	141
RT	Castings	38	41	41	120
RT	General	256	541	421	1218
RT	ISI	22	43	11	76
RT	Welds	14	130	56	200
TOFD	Welds	40	60	40	140
UT	Aerospace	0	33	3	36
UT	Castings	50	38	31	121
UT	General	408	553	192	1153
UT	ISI	13	11	0	24
UT	Welds	47	173	35	255
UT	Wrought products	10	62	0	72
VT	General	189	184	86	459
VT	ISI	118	56	10	184
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>3567</b>	<b>1862</b>	<b>7409</b>

The ICEC, which was given the responsibility for management and development of the EQB, was presented, at a July 2012 teleconference, with a number of options. The ICEC considered the options and agreed to:

- a) upgrade the existing database management application,
- b) import the English and Spanish questions, and

- c) sell the revised question database management application and existing question resource for a once only fee (the level of which is to be agreed).

The ICEC also agreed that it should consider whether to update and extend the existing examination question resource, selling the revised question database management application and questions with a periodic updating/extending service for an initial fee plus update fee to cover initial and on-going moderate effort and investment. A Business plan is being developed to cover this exigency.

### Conditions of sale and purchase

The ICEC will develop the necessary controls for management and distribution of this resource, and will consider the following in order to reach its conclusions:

1. Legal conditions (who owns the bank and markets it)
  - a. ICNDT should retain sole rights to distribution of the Question Bank, with protective measures to include penalties for misuse.
  - b. A legal contract could cover commitment to pay for maintenance and updating, as well as conditions for security, confidentiality, and return of the QB upon cessation of the contract (the ICNDT Executive Committee (IEC) would be responsible for decisions concerning legal and contractual issues).
  - c. Confidentiality and Security (requirements from ISO/IEC 17024)
    - 7.4.2 Security policies and procedures shall include provisions to ensure the security of examination materials taking into account:
      - i) the locations of the materials (e.g. transportation, electronic delivery, disposal, storage, examination centre);
      - ii) the nature of the materials (e.g. electronic, paper, test equipment);
      - iii) the steps in the examination process (e.g. development, administration, results reporting);
      - iv) threats arising from repeated use of examination materials.
2. Conditions of Delivery.
  - a. Users shall agree to implement effective measures to protect the confidentiality and security of the QB, and shall not distribute it onwards.
  - b. Recipient ICNDT Members shall participate in the ICNDT Multilateral Recognition Agreement.
  - c. Recipient PCB shall seek and gain registration under the ICNDT MRA
3. Fees, Invoices, Payments Distribution and Maintenance
  - a. A budget and financial plan shall be produced by the Certification Executive Committee (CEC) when the ICNDT has determined the cost of maintenance and the number of potential users.
  - b. Fees and charges are recommended by the ICEC and approved by the IEC, and are low enough to encourage use of the EQB, yet high enough to reflect the value and to provide for maintenance of this resource.
    - i. A one-off fee for purchase of the ICNDT EQB in 2013: \$7,500.00
    - ii. Ann annual subscription fee\* €750.00

\*covers updating and extending of the EQB and its operating software

## Survey of ICNDT members

### Summary of the responses to the July 2012 member survey on participation in the ICNDT MRA, PCB CA and EQB

Question	Response
1. Does the PCB intend to seek registration under the MRA and, if yes, when?	19 out of 21 PCB responding intend to seek registration under the ICNDT MRA
2. If yes, is it accredited and what is the scope of accreditation?	14 out of 21 PCB responding are accredited
3. If not accredited, does it intend seeking accreditation to comply with the requirements for registration?	6 out of 21 PCB responding will seek accreditation in order to participate in the MRA
4. If not, does it intend seeking ICNDT assessment to comply with the requirements for registration and, if yes, when?	7 out of 21 PCB responding indicated that they would apply for ICNDT assessment for conformity with the applicable standards
5. Would the PCB make use of an ICNDT examination question bank (IEQB)?	15 out of 21 PCB responding indicated that they would make use of the ICNDT EQB
6. If yes to the use of an IEQB, in which language(s) are your examinations conducted – English, Spanish or other?	11 out of 21 PCB responding give examinations in the English language
7. Would your PCB be willing to contribute financially, and/or by the provision of additional questions, to the maintenance and on-going development of an IEQB?	13 out of 21 PCB responding indicated that they would contribute to the ICNDT EQB in one form or another

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## Conclusion

It seems clear from the above that support for these initiatives amongst the ICNDT membership is high, and the ICEC looks forward to implementing the MRA, PCB CA and EQB services at an early opportunity.

John Thompson



Secretary, for the ICEC