



Issue Highlights

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Editors

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2004 Meeting Schedule

Please note the meeting schedule, and the meeting places, for 2004, which are accurate as of the printing of this Newsletter. We post this here in hopes that you may work one or two meetings into your schedule and budget.

January 19 - 23	Tempe, AZ
April 19 - 23	Toulouse, France
July 19 - 23	Indianapolis, IN
Oct 25 - 29	Pittsburgh, PA

The NDT Task Group schedules their Open Meeting for Monday afternoon, except for the October meeting, which includes Auditor Training.

For more information on future meetings, please contact Mark Aubele, NDT Senior Staff Engineer.
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From the Chair..

Happy Holidays! A New Year approaches and brings with it more challenges and more opportunities for all of us. The NDT Task Group will be finalizing their baseline requirements and communicating to the auditors and the supply base their expectations. The new checklist has been scrubbed to remove non-value added questions in order for the auditor to be able to better focus on those items of most importance to the industry. There will be a learning period for all, but we hope to make this transition as painless as possible for all involved.

We will also be focusing on some additional work in the compliance section of the audit to highlight proper flowdown of customer requirements and providing objective evidence of meeting those requirements. This is the crux of the audit and this new approach is intended to provide the primes, and the suppliers, confidence that critical needs are being met.

As always, the Task Group is interested in having the Supplier Base involved, both with the upgrading of the process and the discussions at the meetings. I remind you all, as has become the mantra of this column over the years, that this is your program, too. We should all be working to make the Nadcap process a beneficial experience for all involved. If you have any ideas improving this process, bring them to the meetings. If it is absolutely impossible for you to attend the quarterly meetings, then contact a member of the Task Group with your thoughts.

Let's work together to make 2004 a most successful year for all!

Phil Keown, NDT Task Group Chair
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PRI gathered the NDT auditors from literally all over the world to take this photo. As you can see, the auditors do smile, at least when they are having their photograph taken.



A rare event indeed is captured by this photograph, that is, the auditors, staff and the Task Group members all together in one place at one time. This photo was taken at the October 2003 Auditor Training Session held in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

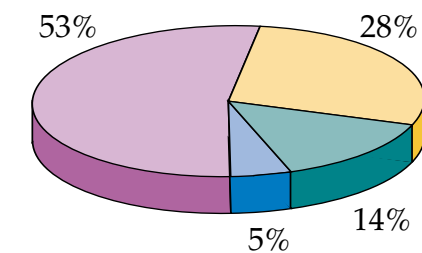
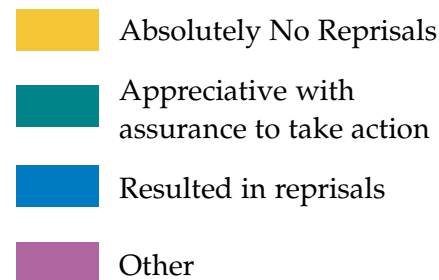
The Supplier Prospective

Use of Nadcap tools for improvement.

While attending the October NDT open task group meeting a supplier voiced a concern about filling out the auditor evaluation forms. This concern centered on the fear of retribution if comments were to reflect negative aspects of the auditor's performance. The staff engineer and the Task Group Chair both commented that it would be difficult to improve auditor performance without Supplier feedback.

In a case made at our business we have used the auditor evaluations in conjunction with contacting PRI about our concerns, and they have brought about satisfactory results. I would like to see all suppliers using this system to help strengthen the auditors. If not, we will just pass the problem (real or perceived) on to the next Supplier.

** Users who selected "Other" most comments made were "don't know", or "have never spoke up."*



Becoming involved is the key to improvement. The Supplier Support Committee, which also encourages supplier involvement, has published a survey to try to gather pertinent data from the supplier base. Question #34 from the survey asks participants to rate how they feel about voicing opinions or making suggestions to improve the PRI/Nadcap process to the Nadcap Task Groups.

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October Auditor Training

As part of the October Nadcap Meeting, auditor training was conducted on October 18, 19 and 20. The general auditor training session was held on Saturday, the 18th of October. During this session the auditors were treated to an agenda full of Quality Systems issues, eAuditNet and a dramatic presentation regarding creating a respectful workplace. Sunday and Monday brought the NDT specific training, which included many items ranging from calibration issues and concerns, audit report completion, and prime unique requirements. In addition, sessions were given on the new baseline endeavor, and the expanded compliance documentation section of the NDT audit.

With expanded prime mandates of course comes more audits and NDT is no exception. At this training session, NDT had in attendance, some 30 auditors from at least two continents. We have attached a couple of photos for you to get a look at some of our staff of auditors who you may have seen, are seeing or will see sometime in the future.

Baseline Checklist Effort

Much time has been spent in the last several months by the NDT Task Group in preparing what are being called the, "Baseline Checklists". Many steps have to be taken to prepare these checklists and to ensure that we have what is an acceptable product to all. First we took each checklist and updated it to the current Industry Standards that are available, and then we fine tuned those criteria to match as best that we could specific customer criteria where it was appropriate, and finally we further fine tuned those specific items to better flow within the audit itself. A more thorough compliance section has been added which will require some additional time be devoted to it, however, to compensate for that time many non-value added areas have been removed. Of these, to note, the requirement to list many procedures has been eliminated as well as a large amount of data entry previously completed by the auditor, and it is felt that this time savings will allow the

additional time be devoted to compliance. Arguably though the biggest impact to everyone involved from the auditor, supplier, prime participant and PRI staff will be the fact that this new checklist represents standard criteria where there will be no deviation. This new checklist will be based on a Standard of course, but the point is that there will be no consideration given to a lack of a customer requirement if that issue is addressed in the checklist. Why, you may ask? It is very simple actually; this system will allow every Nadcap NDT audit to be the same. Each supplier will be audited to the same criteria, and all will have to meet a "baseline" audit. This provides for a much higher confidence factor with the prime participants and creates a level playing field for the supplier. Another advantage is that it will allow an auditor to perform a better, more thorough audit because the requirements will be that much clearer. One of our next steps is to get the auditors and suppliers involved in the review process. There are no secrets in this effort, only an attempt to create a better audit for everyone involved. Stay tuned for more.

For questions or more information, please contact Mark Aubele, NDT Senior Staff Engineer.
maubele@sae.org

Next Meeting

The January Nadcap meeting is scheduled for **Tempe, AZ from January 19 - 22, 2004**. The April 2004 Nadcap meeting is scheduled for **Toulouse, France from April 19 - 23, 2004**. Please plan to join us in our endeavor to make this program as successful as it can be. This is your program, too!

For more information please reference the [Nadcap](http://www.pri.sae.org/Nadcap) homepage at

<http://www.pri.sae.org/Nadcap>