



Non-Destructive Testing Newsletter

Issue Highlights

- Expansion into Europe
- NADCAP Management Council Chair
- Root Cause / Corrective Action
- NAS 410 / AIA Committee
- Next Meeting

Editors

Mark Aubele — Staff Engineer

(maubele@sae.org)

Phil Keown — Task Group Chairman

(philip.keown@ae.ge.com)

From the Chair... Happy Spring!

The recurring theme at the NADCAP meetings these days is the projected growth of the program in the coming months. With the new Boeing mandate, the projected number of NDT audits over the course of 2002 will require a significant increase in our audit staff. And the expansion of the program into Europe signals a need for expanded coverage there.

The NDT Task Group is cognizant of these needs and is working with the PRI staff to address them. At the April meeting we interviewed six more auditor candidates and have identified a group of potential auditors to compliment the qualified staff currently serving the NDT community. And PRI is augmenting their staff, having brought on another NDT staff engineer to work with Mark Aubele in the Warrendale office, Keith Purnell, and a staff engineer in the U.K., Phil Ford. Those of you who attended the April meeting had an opportunity to meet Keith and Phil and learn why we are very happy to have them on our team. But this growth also signals an opportunity, and a need, for expanded supplier support. The addition of hundreds of new suppliers to the NADCAP

program should bring new faces, and new ideas, to our open meetings. The Task Group is looking for innovative suggestions to help us make this a better program for us all. So, as we face the challenge of the coming months, we hope to see more of you at the open meetings. We encourage you to be active, to express your thoughts and ideas on how to make the NADCAP surveillance program as strong as it can be.

Hope to see you in Derby, England, in July!

A Changing of the Guard

The NDT Task Group would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a change in the leadership of the NADCAP Management Council. Deb True (Rolls Royce) will be passing the baton to Boeing's Arnie Logan, effective at the July meeting.

Deb has been a "true" friend of the NDT community, as well as an effective leader of the NMC. We thank her for her guidance, her patience and, above all, her friendship. We wish her continued success in her future endeavors and hope to enjoy her continued presence at future meetings. Don't wander too far off, Deb.

And we also look forward to working with Arnie Logan as he brings in a new perspective, fresh ideas, and a continued goal of driving the program forward.

Root Cause / Corrective Action

The first two meetings of 2002 have shown a disturbing trend. The Accreditation cycle time is growing. This reversal of the progress we had achieved over the last year appears to be based in a failure to adequately address effective Root Cause Analysis and Systemic Actions to Prevent Recurrence. More and more we are seeing a restatement of the Non-Conformance presented as the Root Cause, and a closure of the single line item as the action to Prevent Recurrence.

The NDT Task Group, along with the other Task Groups and PRI staff, recognize this situation as a roadblock to Continuous Improvement. We strongly urge suppliers to take the time to investigate the findings, determine the true depth of the situation, and initiate actions that remedy the cause of the nonconformance.

PRI now offers a "Root Cause/Corrective Action" training session to help participants in the program who may not fully grasp the comprehensive approach to correcting deficiencies. We encourage anyone who is having problems adequately addressing these issues to take advantage of this opportunity. The training is presented at the quarterly meetings as well as periodically at different locations around the country. PRI is also working on an on-line tutorial that will be available sometime prior to the July meeting.

Whether you utilize the training available from PRI or one of the other sources that may be available, we strongly encourage everyone to take a long, hard look at the problem. We need to get back on the track of driving down cycle time and initiating true and sustaining corrective actions

"NAS 410 / EN 4179 Nondestructive Testing Personnel –DRAFT"

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) NDT Working Group accepted a proposal to communicate with their European counterparts to determine interest in co-authoring a single international NDT Personnel Certification

Specification for the benefit of all.

In March of 2001, The Boeing Company carried this initiative forward to the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG), an organization representing forty-three of the world's leading aerospace companies. The IAQG supported the initiative and assigned the sponsor and identified the task as America Aerospace Quality Group (AAQG) "Group Project 024". Group Project 024's membership includes eight IAQG companies (representing five countries) as well as Nondestructive Testing (NDT) representatives from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Department of Defense (DOD).

A "Straw Man" document was written incorporating the requirements of NAS 410 "Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel" and EN 4179 "Aerospace Series – Qualification and Approval of Personnel for Nondestructive Testing". The Straw Man went through many revisions as it was reviewed by Group Project 024 members in 2001, consensus being reached in January of 2002, and subsequent release of the specification draft "NAS-410 / EN-4179 Nondestructive Testing Personnel" is hereby released for industry comment.

The completion of this draft represents a significant level of international cooperation and effort from individuals representing countries and companies from around the globe. This accomplishment required all team members to openly discuss their specific requirements, listen to what the others had to say and then decide on what would be the "best practice". Through this process each member learned other ways to reach the same task goal – "Providing, insuring and maintaining the international industry with a capable and robust NDT personnel process."

APPENDIX FOR NAS 410 / EN 4179 Nondestructive Testing Personnel - Draft

- 1) There is no need to re-approve/re-certify to the requirements of this standard until their current approval/certification is to expire.
- 2) This is an employer based approval/certification process. The employer is responsible for specification compliance.
- 3) The use of the term "Approval" with/or instead of "Certification" – "Certification has a specific meaning in Europe. Something/someone can only be "certified" by an accredited body in accordance with another European Standard. The work around (when EN4179 was originally written) for the purposes of the NDT was to replace the word with "approval" which authorizes the NDT inspector without implying the same legal meaning of certification.
- 4) "National Aerospace Board" France has a National Aerospace Board which administers the COFREND Process which provides individuals with qualifications to perform NDT on aerospace products. This qualification is owned and maintained by the individual but the employer is required to "approve" the inspector. Germany has a National Aerospace Board which serves as a guidance authority for the aerospace industry but does not qualify inspectors. The United Kingdom does not have a National Aerospace Board.
- 5) The use of Arabic numerals has replaced the Roman numerals. The use of roman numerals for the various levels causes confusion within the European sector and there is not a compelling requirement for Roman numerals.
- 6) Level 3 re-certification has adopted a point system (annex A serves as requirements) to document NDT involvement for the purpose of demonstrating competence for continued qualification. Points have been included to provide maximum utilization for the "working" or "hands on" level 3's to meet the requirement.
- 7) Exception to minimum level 1 and 2 qualification requirements is allowed provided it is approved and documented by the responsible level 3.

- 8) The definition of formal training has been expanded to support the increased hours.
- 9) Medical source utilized for visual acuity checks are "designated" by the level 3 not approved.
- 10) Level 3 can no longer utilize previous employer procedures for re-approval.
- 11) Level 1 and 2 re-certification has been set at 5 years to align with other NDT specifications for certification with practical and specific examinations equivalent to those required for initial certification.

Steve James
Associate Technical Fellow, NDT
The Boeing Company

Items of Interest...

- The Boeing Company has issued their mandate for NDT and suppliers must be NADCAP accredited by August, 2003.
- Susan Malsch has joined the PRI staff as an NDT Secretary. She will be providing some welcome assistance to our Super Secretary, Louise Belak. Welcome Susan, and thanks, Louise!
- PRI is still looking for auditor candidates, both domestically and internationally. Please contact Wendy Grubbs at www.wendyg@sae.org if you know of anyone who may be interested (and qualified).
- The QML is available on-line at www.eauditnet.com. The quarterly, hard-copy is no longer being published.

Next Meeting

The Summer NADCAP meeting is scheduled for **Derby, England, July 22-25, 2002**. 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 homepage at

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

