Advisory Circular

Subject:

TRAINING, QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING PERSONNEL OF AIRCRAFT, ENGINES, COMPONENTS AND MATERIALS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	TITLE
1.0	General
2.0	Purpose
3.0	Applicability
4.0	References
5.0	Background
6.0	Definitions
7.0	Standards for Qualification, Certification and Training of NDT Personnel
8.0	Nondestructive Testing Methods
9.0	Qualifications
10.0	Requirements for Qualification
11.0	Examination
12.0	General Requirements

1.0 GENERAL

i) The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority Advisory Circulars (AC) contains information about standards, practices and procedures that the Authority has found to be acceptable for compliance with the associated Regulations.

ii) Consideration will be given to other methods of compliance which may be presented to the Authority.

iii) When new standards, practices or procedures are found to be acceptable they will be added to the appropriate AC.

2.0 PURPOSE

Nig.CARs Part 6 requires that each Approved Maintenance Organisation (AMO) shall provide specialized training, including initial and recurrent, for employees whose duties require specialized skills.

This Advisory Circular (AC) provides guidelines for the experience, training, qualification, examination, and certification of Nondestructive Testing (NDT) personnel involved in inspecting aircraft, engines, propellers, accessories, and other aeronautical products. It establishes criteria for the qualification of personnel who must possess appropriate knowledge of the technical principles underlying the nondestructive testing (NDT) methods they perform.

This document applies to individuals directly responsible for ensuring the technical adequacy of NDT methods, as well as organizations or personnel involved in training, supervision, or oversight of NDI personnel. Organizations conducting NDI activities should have a documented program outlining the procedures for training, qualification, and certification of their personnel.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

This AC applies to all Approved Maintenance Organizations (AMOs), aircraft operators, and licensed aircraft maintenance personnel involved in NDT activities for aircraft and aeronautical products installed on Nigerian-registered aircraft.

4.0 REFERENCES

i) Nig.CARs Parts 5, 6, 8 and 9
ii) BS EN 4179:2017 Aerospace Series – Qualification and Approval of Personnel for Non-Destructive Testing
iii) National Aerospace Standards (NAS) 410 – NAS Certification and Qualification of Non-Destructive Test Personnel, Revision 5, 2020.
iv) Federal Aviation Administration AC 65-31B: Training, Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Inspection Personnel.

5.0 BACKGROUND

Non-DestructiveTesting (NDT) plays a vital role in aircraft maintenance, enabling the detection of structural defects without impairing the functionality of components. Given the increasing reliance on advanced materials such as composites and the integration of automated inspection techniques, regulatory frameworks must evolve to maintain aviation safety and compliance.

Internationally, regulatory bodies have established stringent NDT personnel qualification and certification requirements to ensure competence and consistency in inspections. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and Transport Canada have issued various directives outlining the requisite training, certification, and continuing education for NDT personnel.

To align Nigeria's regulatory environment with global best practices, this AC incorporates guidance from internationally recognised standards/recommended practices such as EN 4179, NAS 410, SNT-TC-1A and FAA AC 65-31B. These standards provide a structured approach to personnel qualification, ensuring that individuals performing NDT inspections possess the necessary technical skills, theoretical knowledge, and practical experience.

Additionally, advancements in NDT technology, including digital radiography, Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT), and thermographic inspection, have improved defect detection capabilities and reliability. As such, this AC emphasizes the need for continuous professional development and adherence to emerging NDT methodologies.

This AC serves to guide stakeholders in adopting a robust framework for NDT personnel certification, ensuring compliance with Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations (Nig. CARs) and enhancing the overall airworthiness of Nigerian registered aircraft operating within and outside Nigerian airspace.

6.0 DEFINITIONS

a) **Acceptance Criteria.** The basis for acceptance of the results of an examination as noted in the NDT Standard under consideration.
b) **Auditor.** An individual who reviews NDT facilities and general procedures for compliance with NDT technical requirements.
c) **Calibration (Instrument).** The comparison or adjustment of an instrument to known references, traceable to national metrological institutes, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); National Physical Laboratory, UK; or Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, while being processed through a metrology system. (See subparagraph 5cc for inspection of product.)
d) **Certification.** Written testimony of qualification that the employer typically issues as a written statement that the individual has met the requirements of an accepted standard. In Nigeria, there is no national certifying agency; therefore, most certifications are employer-based and are not transferrable. These certifications should be further broken down into limited or task qualifications (e.g., Level I Special).

e) **Certification Based on Previous Experience.** Certifications acceptable to the certifying organization of individuals who were certified under a previous qualification program. Documentation is required.
f) **Documentation.** Written or printed record furnishing information or evidence; a legal or official record in paper or electronic form.
g) **Evaluation.** A determination of the significance of indications.
h) **Examination.** A formal, controlled, and documented interrogation conducted in accordance with a procedure defined in an organization's program.
i) **Examiner.** A Level III or other qualified representative of the examining organization.
j) **Experience.** Actual performance or observation conducted in the work environment, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge and skill. This does not include classroom or laboratory training but does include on-the-job training (OJT).
k) **General Examination.** A written examination addressing the basic principles of the applicable NDT method.
l) **Grandfathered.** Certification of individuals that were certified to a previously acquired level as detailed in the written practice. The employer is still required to certify the individual by ensuring they meet the requirements of the certification standard.
m) **Indication.** An observation or indication that is the result of a test being performed that requires interpretation to determine its significance.
n) **Inspector.** A qualified individual designated by an organization to provide inspection services.
o) **Instructor.** An individual qualified and designated, in accordance with this guidance, to provide classroom or laboratory training for NDT personnel. The instructor:

    1. Should have the necessary skills and knowledge to plan, organize, and present classroom, laboratory, or OJT programs of instruction in accordance with approved course outlines, in the method for which he or she is qualified.
    2. Should be thoroughly familiar with the theory and practical applications of the method as utilized by the organization.
    3. Should not conduct NDTs for the acceptance of parts unless he or she is properly qualified.

p) **Interpretation.** The determination of whether indications are relevant or irrelevant.
q) **Method.** One of the disciplines of NDI, or NDT (e.g., radiography or ultrasonic), within which different techniques exist.
r) **Nondestructive Testing (NDT).** NDT is defined as inspections, tests, or evaluations which may be applied to a structure or component to determine its integrity, composition, electrical or thermal properties, or dimensions without causing a change in any of these characteristics.
s) **On-The-Job Training (OJT).** Training in the work environment. Learning objectives should include instrumentation setup, equipment operation, recognition of indications, and interpretation and should be accomplished under the technical guidance of an experienced Level II, Level III, or other designated individual.
t) **Organization.** A corporation or other similar entity established to provide or receive NDT services.

u) **Outside Agency.** An independent body under contract for NDT services which may include the training and examination of personnel to the requirements of a standard. Consultants and self-employed individuals are included in this definition.

v) **Practical Examination.** The hands-on examination used to demonstrate an individual's ability to practice the NDT methods that will be performed for the organization. Questions and answers do not need to be written, but a checklist should be used and observations and results should be documented.

w) **Procedure.** A detailed, written instruction for conducting NDTs or qualifying personnel.

x) **Qualification.** Demonstrated skill, training, knowledge, and experience required for personnel to properly perform the duties of a specific job.

y) **Qualification Certificate.** A certificate/ Authorization issued by the organization/employer as evidence of qualification to NDT proficiency standards as defined in this document.

z) **Qualified Personnel.** Personnel qualified to perform NDTs in accordance with, and covered by, provisions of this document.

aa) **Responsible Level III**: Certified Level III responsible to the Accountable Manager for the airworthiness aspects of NDT work undertaken by the organisation.

bb) **Specific Examination.** The written examination to determine an individual's understanding of procedures, codes, standards, and specifications for a given method used by the organization.

cc) **Standardization (Instrument).** Process by which the unit/equipment being used for the inspection is properly adjusted to a reference standard, procedure, and/or operation prior to using the equipment for the examination.

dd) **Technique.** A procedure within a method. For example: ultrasonic immersion testing used as a part of the ultrasonic method, or Fluorescent Penetrant Inspection (FPI) as a part of penetrant inspection.

ee) **Trainee.** An individual participating in a training program for an NDT method who is not yet qualified. Trainees should obtain work experience only under the direct supervision of a qualified instructor, Level II, or Level III in the same method. Trainees should not independently conduct tests; make, accept, or reject decisions; or perform any other NDT functions.

ff) **Training.** An organized and documented program of activities designed to impart the knowledge and skills necessary for qualification. This program may be a mix of classroom, laboratory, programmed self-teaching, and OJT.

7.0 STANDARDS FOR QUALIFICATION, CERTIFICATION, AND TRAINING OF NDT PERSONNEL.

In compliance with aviation regulations, organizations must ensure that only competent and proficient personnel perform Non-destructive Tests (NDT) to maintain airworthiness standards. The training and qualification of NDT personnel are critical and should be conducted in accordance with internationally recognized industry standards.

The NCAA requires that organizations adopt acceptable training and qualification programs for NDT personnel. While there is no singular national certification standard, organizations should utilize recognized international or national standards to establish their training and qualification framework.

To demonstrate competency in performing NDT, individuals should:

1. Meet the minimum formal training and experience requirements specified in the adopted NDT Standard. The minimum hours of experience requirement, depending upon the NDT method, should be in the form of On-the-Job Training (OJT) with an appropriately certified organization supervised by the Nominated level III NDT Inspector.

2. Meet the criteria set forth in one of the following internationally accepted standards:

    a) **AIA-NAS-410** – National Aerospace Standard, Certification & Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel (Aerospace Industries Association).
    b) **prEN 4179** – Qualification and Approval of Personnel for Nondestructive Testing (*now harmonized with AIA-NAS-410*).
    c) **ATA Specification 105** – Guidelines for Training and Qualifying Personnel in Nondestructive Testing Methods (Air Transport Association).
    d) **CAN/CGSB-48.9712** – Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel (Canadian National Regulations). *This is an adoption of ISO 9712 by Canada without modification. Technically, CAN/CGSB-48.9712 is the same as ISO 9712.*
    e) **ISO 9712** – Nondestructive Testing – Qualification and Certification of Personnel (International Organization for Standardization).
    f) **ASNT SNT-TC-1A** – Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing (American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc.).

    *NOTE: When selecting a Nondestructive Testing (NDT) standard to be adopted, an Organization or maintenance personnel **must prioritize** the NDT standard specified by the Type Certificate Holder (TCH) or Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM**)** of the aircraft, engine, propeller, or aeronautical product on which the organization intends to perform NDT.*

    In cases where the TCH/OEM has not specified an NDT standard, the organization should adopt any of the internationally recognized NDT qualification and certification standards above that is widely accepted within the aviation industry and approved by the NCAA.:

3. Qualification Process – Personnel must complete the qualification, examination, and reexamination requirements as prescribed in this document and in the respective standard for which the prospective NDT personnel wish to be trained and qualified on.

    Note: This document serves as a guideline for organizations to establish a structured qualification framework for NDT personnel. While it is not a strict specification, it may be used as such when deemed appropriate.

4. Qualifications may be established by completing the qualification, examination, and reexamination requirements described in this document and in the respective standard for which the prospective NDT personnel wish to be trained and qualified on.

8.0 . NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING METHODS.

Personnel qualification under this Advisory Circular (AC) applies to the following Nondestructive Testing (NDT) methods:

a) **Radiographic Testing (RT)**

b) **Magnetic Particle Testing (MT)**

c) **Ultrasonic Testing (UT)**

d) **Liquid Penetrant Testing (PT)**

e) **Eddy Current Testing (ET)**

f) **Thermography/Infrared Testing (IRT)**

Note: Additional NDT methods, such as acoustic emission, neutron radiography, leak testing, holography, computed tomography (CT), or other emerging inspection techniques, may be included if they gain widespread industry acceptance and official guidance is available for their application. For instance, if shearography becomes an approved inspection method as part of a manufacturer's Service Bulletin (SB), the regulatory authority may require proof that only qualified personnel conduct such inspections.

9.0 QUALIFICATIONS

To ensure the effectiveness and reliability of Nondestructive Testing (NDT), personnel must meet specific training, experience, and certification requirements.

a) **Training, Experience, and Credentials.** To properly perform the necessary tasks, NDT personnel should have appropriate training and experience and, when required by the qualifying organization, hold a valid and current airframe and/or powerplant engineer license or Aviation Repair Specialist Licence. Instructors are not required to hold such licenses unless it's a prerequisite of the qualifying organization. Possession of an NCAA airframe and powerplant (A&P) engineer license may be considered part of the required training experience.

b) **Competence.** NDT personnel should:
   1) Be qualified to direct and perform inspections in the method required.
   2) Be able to set up and standardize equipment (where applicable), read and interpret indications, and evaluate them with reference to applicable standards and specifications.
   3) Be thoroughly familiar with the scope and limitations of the method.
   4) Have the ability to apply detailed techniques to products or parts within the limitations of the qualifications requirements.
   5) Be able to organize and report NDT results in a manner specified by the employing organization.

   NOTE: There is no specific certification or training required for the inspection of composites vs. metals; however, an organization should be aware that there are differences and curriculum should be adjusted accordingly.

c) **Certification.** A certificate may be issued by the organization as evidence of qualification. This qualification certificate may define the level of qualification based on the requirements listed below. Additionally, by presenting documentation of previous training and experience to the cognizant Level III, an individual may be grandfathered to a requested level. Permanent personnel records should indicate when an individual has been grandfathered. Usually, there are three basic levels of personnel qualification: Level I, Level II, and Level III. These levels may be further subdivided for specific operations when appropriate.

1) **Trainee**: An individual who is documented as participating in a training program for an NDT method and is in the process of becoming qualified for certification to Level I-Limited, Level I or directly to Level II shall be considered a trainee. In the technique /method in which they are preparing for certification, trainees shall:

i) Be documented as a trainee and be actively participating in a training program for a stated NDT method for a limited and specified period of time.
ii) Obtain experience under the direct observation of a Level II or Level III in the same method.
iii) Obtain experience under the direct observation of a Level I or instructor only when approved by the responsible Level III.
iv) Not make accept or reject decisions.
v) Not independently conduct tests.
vi) Not independently perform any other NDT function.

2) **Level I Special/Limited (Optional).** Level I Special/Limited is the lowest qualification level and is task-specific. Personnel may be qualified to this level to perform a specific task on a particular component, part, part feature, or assembly. Classroom instruction and OJT may be limited to the specific requirements to perform the task. Written evidence of qualification should be limited to a specific task and is not designed to replace higher qualification levels or for a method. An example of this level is the eddy current inspection of aircraft wheels.

In the test technique and method in which certified, Level 1-Special/Limited personnel shall:

i) Be able to follow work instructions.
ii) Receive guidance or supervision from a certified Level II or Level III in the method when necessary.
iii) Have the skills and knowledge to process parts, document results, and perform equipment standardization in accordance with approved work instructions.
iv) Have the skills and knowledge to carry out any necessary preparation of parts before or after inspection in accordance with approved work instructions.

v) When specified in the written practice and when the cognizant engineering organization allows, have the skills and knowledge to evaluate test results and perform acceptance or rejection of a specific part, part feature, or assembly in accordance with approved work instructions and within the limitations documented by the Responsible III.

3) **Level I.** Level I should be granted for a specific method. To be qualified for Level I, an individual should have the skills and knowledge to perform specific tests, specific calibrations, specific interpretations, and evaluations for acceptance or rejection, and document the results in accordance with specific procedures. The individual should:

i) Meet the training and experience requirements as contained in the respective NDT Standard under consideration and Table 1 of this document.
ii) Be able to follow work instructions.
iii) Have the skills and knowledge to process parts, document results, and perform equipment standardization in accordance with approved work instructions.
iv) Have the skills and knowledge to carry out any necessary preparation of parts before or after inspection in accordance with approved work instructions.
v) Have the skills and knowledge to conduct system performance checks in accordance with the applicable process standard.
vi) Receive guidance or supervision from a certified Level II or Level III in that method when necessary.
vii) When specified in the written practice and approved by the Responsible Level III, may perform interpretations and evaluations of specific product(s) or product form(s) for acceptance or rejection in accordance with approved work instructions.

4) **Level II.** In addition to the requirements specified in the Level I qualification, the individual qualified to Level II should:

i) Have the skills and knowledge to set up and standardize equipment, process parts, interpret and evaluate for acceptance or rejection, and document results..

ii) Be thoroughly familiar with the scope and limitations of the methods/techniques for which he or she is qualified.

iii) Have the skills and knowledge to conduct system performance checks in accordance with the applicable process standard.

iv) Be capable of providing the necessary guidance and/or supervision to trainees and Level 1 personnel.

v) Be familiar with the codes, standards, and other contractual documents that control the method as used by the employer.

vi) When specified in the written practice, be capable of developing work instructions from approved general procedures. Such work instructions shall require final approval by a Level III certified in the method.

vii) Have a basic knowledge of relevant product manufacturing and inspection technology.

viii) When specified in the written practice, have a basic knowledge of aircraft or vehicle maintenance.

ix) Meet the training and experience requirements as contained in the respective NDT Standard under consideration and Table 1 of this document.

5) **Level III.** In addition to the requirements specified in the Level II qualification, individuals qualified to Level III should have the skills and knowledge to interpret codes, standards, and other regulatory documents that control the methods used by the organization.

A Level III may be qualified in one or more methods. Only individuals at this level should have the authority to approve procedures for the methods for which they are qualified. The individual should:

i) Be able to select the method and technique for a specific inspection.

ii) Select and/or design equipment and reference standards.

iii) Verify the adequacy of procedures.

iv) Have general knowledge of all other NDI methods utilized by the organization.

v) Be capable of conducting or directing the training and examination of personnel in the methods for which they are qualified.

vi) Meet the training and experience requirements as contained in the respective NDT Standard under consideration

6) **Auditor.** Personnel performing technical NDT audits, surveys or assessments shall have the training, skills and knowledge to understand the processes and procedures utilized in the application of NDT processes. The individual shall be familiar with the applicable codes, standards, and other contractual documents that control the applicable method(s).

d) **Qualification Based on Previous Experience.** Personnel presently qualified to perform specific methods of NDT may request documentation citing evidence of Level I, Level II, or Level III qualification by their previous organization. By presenting documentation of previous training and experience as under a previously accepted qualification program for each NDT method, an individual may be deemed grandfathered to the requested level. It is the responsibility of the grandfathering organization to verify all requirements from the previous program meet the requirements of the new organization's program. Permanent personnel records should indicate when and to what level an individual has been qualified.

Tables 1

MINIMUM CLASSROOM TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

NDT METHOD	LEVELS					
	CLASSROOM TRAINING (HRS)			EXPERIENCE (HRS)		
	Level I	Level II (with previous level I certification)	Level II (without previous level I certification)	Level I (trainee experience)	Level II (with previous level I certification)	Level II (without previous level I certification)
Eddy Current	40	40	80	200	600	800
Ultrasonic	40	40	80	200	400	800
Magnetic Particle	16	16	32	130	400	530
Penetrant	16	16	32	130	270	400
Thermography/ Infrared	20	40	60	200	400	600
Shearography	20	20	60	**480**	**1440**	
Radiography (Film or Non-Film)	40	40	80	200	600	800
Radiography (Film & Non-Film)	60	60	120	220	7801	1000
Additional Training Hours for Transition to Film and Nonfilm [Radiography]				**Experience Requirement for Transition to Film and NonFilm**		
	Current Level I	Current level II	Current Level I to Level II Film & NonFIlm	Current Level I	Current level II	Current Level I to Level II Film & NonFIlm
	20	40	80	20	200	800

10.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION.

a) **Establishing a Written Practice:** Organizations must develop a documented **Nondestructive Testing (NDT) qualification and certification program (Written Practice)** to govern personnel training, examination, qualification, and record-keeping. This program should outline a structured approach to maintaining proficiency, including provisions for recurrent training and criteria for **decertification, retraining, and recertification** as necessary.

Note: *This Written Practice, developed by the Organization's Responsible level III NDT Inspector, shall be part of the AMO Procedures Manual approved by the Authority.*

b) **Provision of Qualified Instructors** Organizations must ensure that **NDT instructors** are properly qualified, having successfully completed an accredited **Nondestructive Testing (NDT) training program** for the applicable test method(s). Instructors should demonstrate practical

expertise and in-depth theoretical knowledge of the subject. At the organization's discretion, and as specified in their Written Practice, a qualified **third-party NDT agency** may be engaged to provide **NDT training, qualification, and certification testing**.

c) **Structured Training Program:** Personnel undergoing qualification should complete **formalized training** to develop a comprehensive understanding of the principles and application of the specific **NDT method(s)**. The training program must incorporate:

i) **On-the-Job Training (OJT)**, covering fundamental principles, equipment operation, testing techniques, inspection procedures, and interpretation of results.

ii) **Hands-on practical experience** with relevant products and testing scenarios encountered in actual work assignments.

Upon successful qualification, personnel must be formally notified within a reasonable timeframe.

d) **Qualification of NDT Personnel:** Personnel qualification should be based on demonstrated competency, as assessed through the procedures specified in **Section 10**. To be recognized as qualified, candidates must meet the required **education, training, and experience** criteria for the applicable **NDT certification level**:

(1) Level I – Limited/Specialized

i) Candidates must complete the **minimum required classroom instruction and OJT** necessary for proficiency in a **specific** inspection task.

ii) Qualification must conform to the maintenance **organization's written practice** for NDT certification.

(2) Level I / Level II Qualification

i) Required **classroom training hours**, **OJT experience**, and **examination requirements** are outlined in the respective Standard and **Table 1(whichever is more strict).**

ii) Organizations must establish written practices for the **initial qualification and certification** of Level I and Level II personnel based on these standards.

(3) Level III Qualification

To qualify as **Level III**, candidates must meet at least **one** of the following requirements:

i) **Option (a):** Hold a **four-year degree** in engineering or a related technical discipline, along with a **minimum of one year of NDT experience** equivalent to a **Level II** in the applicable method(s).

ii) **Option (b):** Have completed **two years of engineering or science education** at an accredited university, college, or technical school, plus **two years of NDT experience** in a **Level II-equivalent role**.

iii) **Option (c):** Possess **four years of hands-on experience** performing duties equivalent to those of an **NDT Level II** in the relevant method(s). This is for those with no engineering/science education.

11.0. EXAMINATION.

This paragraph outlines examination guidelines for Levels I, II, and III. The examination should consist of demonstrations in the following segments to confirm physical and technical qualification:

a) <u>Required Examinations.</u>

1) Vision Examination (Visual Acuity Tests). The requirements contained in Table 2 below shall be met.

Table 2: Vision Requirements.

Vision Requirements	
NEAR VISION OPTIONS (Select One)	1) Tumbling E in accordance with ISO 18490
	2) 20/25 (Snellen) at 16" (40.64 cm) +/-1" (2.54 cm)*
Frequency: Annually	3) Jaeger No. 1 at not less than 12" (30.48 cm)*
COLOUR PERCEPTION **Frequency: At least every 5 years**	Personnel shall be capable of adequately distinguishing and differentiating colours used in the process involved
* In at least one eye, naturally or corrected. Simulated vision test and distance is not permitted	

Snellen and Jaeger tests shall be administered by trained personnel designated by the Responsible Level III or by qualified medical personnel. When vision correction is necessary to pass the visual acuity exam, vision correction shall be worn during all testing/inspections. Any limitations in color perception shall be evaluated by the Responsible Level III prior to certification and must be approved in writing.

2) **Technical Examination Requirements**. This involves the General, Specific and Practical examinations.
   a) All the examinations are to be conducted following the procedures specified in the respective standards;
   b) Specific examinations on any NDT method should be administered after completing a minimum of **75%** of the minimum experience requirements (OJT hours) for each method.
   c) Practical examinations on any method should be administered after **ALL** the experience requirements (OJT hours) for the respective method have been completed.

12.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

a) Qualified Personnel

i) Organizations undertaking NDT must satisfy the Authority that they have adequate numbers of suitably qualified staff to discharge the responsibilities of the approval.

ii) Organizations shall nominate in writing, supported with evidence of certification, an individual responsible to the Accountable Manager for the technical supervision of NDT. This individual will hold independent certification at Level III in the appropriate Aerospace Sector and will be referred to as the "Nominated Level III". This position shall be identified within the AMOPM Procedures Manual, and any change in this position shall be advised to the NCAA.

iii) Where the Nominated level III is not qualified in all methods used by the Organization, then additional Level III personnel necessary to provide coverage, shall be independently certified in accordance with required standard.

iv) Additional Level III Certification holders shall be listed in the AMOPM or reference made in the AMOPM to other documents containing the list of Level III holders. Any changes to this list are to be notified to NCAA through appropriate amendments.

v) NCAA may accept persons external to the organization as the Nominated Level III, provided written agreement exists between the individual and the AMO setting out the individual's responsibilities within the organization.

b) **Inspections and Certification of Inspections.**

i) NDT inspections shall be carried out by personnel approved in accordance with the organization's written practice. Where NDT procedures are specified by the organization responsible for the design and/or manufacture of the aircraft, material, structure or component, then these must be used, except where change is permitted and authorized as defined in paragraph 12 (c) of this circular.

ii) Where non mandatory inspections are to be undertaken, for which the responsible design/manufacturing organization has not specified NDT procedures, then the NDT method, technique, procedure and instruction shall be prepared in accordance with paragraph 12 (c) of this circular and approved by a Level III holder qualified in the applicable method.

iii) Normally, certification of inspections will be made by persons who hold Level II or above certifications/authorizations. However, where an inspection task is determined by the Nominated Level III to have clearly defined acceptability and rejection criteria requiring no interpretation, then certification may be made by an authorized Level I, as detailed within the written practice.

iv) Where an NDT Level III is required to carry out and certify an NDT inspection, then this person must either hold current Level II certification in those methods, or be able to provide evidence that they have successfully completed an appropriate Level II practical examination and maintained continuity in the application of practical testing, as defined in the reference NDT standards and detailed in the written practice.

c) NDT Techniques and Instructions and their Approval.

i) NDT techniques, procedures and instructions, published and specified by the Type Certificate holder in NDT manuals, Service Bulletins, Approved Drawings, or other approved documents constitute airworthiness data and must be adhered to for compliance with regulatory requirements.

ii) Where the airworthiness data issued by the Type Certificate holder allows for modifications -- such as selecting different equipment model, probe types or similar variables – such changes must be formerly authorized in writing by a Level III NDT personnel qualified in the applicable method.

iii) Any deviations beyond the provisions of the TC holder's airworthiness data requires written approval from the TC holder for the design of the product or structure, along with acceptance from NCAA before implementation.

iv) NDT instructions developed by a Level II certified individual must be reviewed and formerly approved by a Level III certified individual in the corresponding NDT method before use.

v) The procedure for the control of all NDT techniques, procedures and instructions, including their preparation and authorization within any organization must be clearly documented in the Organization's approved AMOPM.

vi) NDT personnel certified in any specific technique within an NDT method shall not perform and certify an NDT task requiring a different technique of the same NDT method if that technique is not within the individual's NDT certification/authorization. Qualification in an additional technique within the same method requires additional classroom training and experience hours, successful completion of the required examinations, certification to the technique per the employer's Written Practice, etc. Typically, if an individual is already certified in a technique, the minimum additional experience hours required for another technique at the same level may be reduced by up to 50%, as per the employer's Written Practice.

vii) NDT task worksheets must include dedicated sections specifying the part numbers and serial numbers of all tools, equipment, and reference standards/calibration blocks used, along with their respective calibration status. This documentation ensures traceability and facilitates audits to verify that the inspections was conducted in accordance with approved airworthiness data and that the task was satisfactorily performed.

d) Suppliers and Sub-Contractors to Approved Maintenance Organizations.

An organization utilising suppliers and sub-contractors where NDT processes are involved, shall detail within their written practice how the AMO ensures that training and approval of such personnel or sub-contractors is controlled. Similarly, an AMO that utilizes a sub-contractor to carry out NDT processes on its behalf will detail within its AMOPM how the requirements of this circular are addressed.