

Information and Advisory Notice No. 31

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Non-Destructive Testing Qualifications in Part-145 Aircraft Maintenance Organisations

1. Introduction

This IAN is being published to provide guidance to the Part-145 organisations on the qualification and authorization of NDT Level 1, 2 and 3 personnel and the policy of TM CAD regarding the National Aerospace Non-Destructive Testing Board.

2. Regulation

Part-145.A.30 (f)

The organisation shall ensure that personnel who carry out or control a continued-airworthiness non-destructive test of aircraft structures or components, or both, are appropriately qualified for the particular non-destructive test in accordance with the European or equivalent standard recognised by the Agency. Personnel who carry out any other specialised task shall be appropriately qualified in accordance with officially recognised standards. By derogation from this point, personnel referred to in point (g), points (h)(1) and (h)(2), qualified in category B1, B3 or L in accordance with Annex III (Part-66), may carry out and/or control colour contrast dye penetrant tests.

AMC145.A.30 (f)

Notwithstanding the general references in EN 4179 to a national aerospace non-destructive testing (NDT) board, all examinations should be conducted by personnel or organisations under the general control of such a board. In the absence of a national aerospace NDT board, the aerospace NDT board of another Member State should be used, as defined by the competent authority.

3. EN 4179

The European standard recognised by EASA is EN 4179 as amended. The current version at the time of writing is EN4179:2026. The EN Standard can be procured from the MCCA.

EN 4179 sets out the minimum requirements for the qualification, examination and certification of personnel performing non-destructive testing (NDT), non-destructive inspection (NDI), or nondestructive evaluation (NDE) in the aerospace manufacturing, service, maintenance and overhaul industries.

Applicable non-destructive testing methods

TEST METHODS

Eddy current testing (ET)
Magnetic particle testing (MT)

Penetrant testing (PT)
Radiography testing (RT)
Ultrasonic testing (UT)
Thermographic testing (IRT)
Shearography testing (ST)

The EN 4179 refers to the written practice of the organisation qualifying and authorising NDT staff

4. Written Practice

The Written Practice is the document that describes the Part-145 AMO's requirements, processes and methodology for managing, controlling and administering the NDT personnel qualification and certification process. The written practice also defines the roles, responsibilities, training need, examination practices and record keeping.

The written practice shall be incorporated in the MOE as an appendix and approved by TM CAD.

The contents of the written practice are found in EN 4179 Heading 4.

5. National Aerospace NDT Board (NANDTB)

According to EN 4179, a NANDTB is an independent national aerospace organization representing a nation's aerospace industry that is chartered by the participating prime contractors and is recognized by the Competent Authority to provide or support NDT qualification services in accordance with EN 4179.

Each NANDTB shall be recognized formally in writing by the nation's Competent Authority.

In the case of Malta, local NDT personnel have historically had their training and examination conducted at training and examinations schools and examination centres approved by the British Institute of NDT approved training establishments which falls under the UK National Institute of NDT.

This has led the aircraft maintenance industry in Malta and TM CAD to rely indirectly on the UK NANDTB as the Board supervising the British Institute of NDT, also in the absence of the NANDTB in Malta.

This means that TM CAD recognizes the UK NANDTB as a NANDTB in terms of the EN 4179 and Part-145.A.30(f) and its AMC.

Since the UK has withdrawn from the EU, Malta has issued an AltMoC which is also filed with EASA as alternative means of compliance to AMC145.A.30(f).

In case of new necessities to recognise and use other European NANDTBs, the Part-145 AMOs with a principal place of business in Malta shall ensure prior notification to TM CAD such that all the necessary coordination, technical liaison and oversight arrangements are implemented.

6. Part-145 NDT Auditors

Employer personnel performing technical NDT audits, surveys or assessments shall:

- be designated by the Responsible Level 3;
- have the training, skills, and knowledge to understand the processes and procedures utilized in the application of NDT processes;
- be familiar with the applicable codes, standards, and other contractual documents that control the applicable method(s).