

LRQA-CASL

APPROVAL OF PERSONS SCHEME FOR PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE NDT OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS

(Scheme rules)

Requirements for the Approval of Certification Bodies providing EN/ISO 9712 Qualifications of NDT Operators according to the Requirements of 2014/68/EU Annex I paragraph 3.1.3 Recognised third party organisations in accordance with PD CEN /TR 15589 Route C



Foreword

QF7.7 is managed by LRQA-CASL., which acts as a Certification Body for Certification of Persons, in keeping with the requirements of the industries served by the scheme. LRQA-CASL is accredited by the national accreditation organisation to BS EN ISO/IEC 17024 for Certification of Persons. LRQA understands the importance of impartiality in carrying out its certification activities, managing conflict of interest and ensuring the objectivity of all its certification activities, in accordance with BS EN ISO/IEC 17024. NDT Personnel certified or qualified (as applicable) by organisations other than Recognised Third Party Organisations (RTPO) as per 2014/68/EU Annex I, paragraph 3.1.3. Recognised third party organisations may be approved by this scheme provided that it is proven that the criteria used is equivalent to the harmonised / Designated standard has been met and the scope of certification is relevant to the testing of permanent joints in pressure equipment.

1 Routes to certification

Candidates seeking approval under this scheme will have undergone prior training, have suitable industrial experience covered by this scheme and have current certification issued by another certification body for a suitable scope. The scheme is open to all seeking NDT qualifications under this scheme (Ref Annex 1). Annex 1 lays out the route to achieving approval.

2 Application for Approval and Fees

The certification Body will issue an application form to the candidate/sponsor, which must be completed in full and returned to LRQA-CASL. If it is found that a false statement has been submitted by the candidate/sponsor, any testing undertaken will be declared null and void. Qualification certificates are automatically invalidated if there are any outstanding fees.

LRQA-CASL reserves the right to retain any fees where the candidate/sponsor cancels within 7 days of agreed assessment/test date. This is applicable where the candidate is attending the LRQA-CASL premises for qualification tests. Testing charges will be agreed prior to any examination taking place.

Where LRQA-CASL are requested to attend a sponsors workshop / site, then no initial application fee is payable, and the sponsor will be invoiced by LRQA-CASL in line with the normal commercial invoicing process and charged at agreed rates.

3.a Standards

Approval is available when certification or qualification (as applicable) in accordance with the current issues of the standards listed below is confirmed in accordance with the rules of this scheme:

EN ISO 9712: Non-destructive testing — Qualification and certification of NDT personnel

Recommended Practice SNT- TC-1A Personnel Qualification and Certification in Non-destructive Testing

ANSI-CP-189: Standard for Qualification and Certification of Non-destructive Testing Personnel

PD CEN /TR 15589 NDT-Code of Practice for the approval of NDT personnel by RTPOs under the provisions of Directive 97/23/EC

The above list is not intended to be exhaustive and other appropriate standards may be used with agreement of LRQA-CASL (latest revisions refer)

3.b Definitions

Permanent joints: Permanent joints are defined as joints which cannot be disconnected except by destructive methods e.g., made by fusion welding, brazing, braze welding, bonding, expansion, fretting and riveting.

Candidate: Individual seeking approval under the scheme.

3c. Responsibilities and Qualification Criteria for LRQA-CASL Personnel

Assessor:

ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES	LRQA-CASL QUALIFICATION CRITERIA
On site visit (and or remote*) to assess: The certification scheme of the employer and its implementation.	Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Valid Level III certification in each NDT method (sector: welds)- Evidence for valid annual eye test- Audit training: at least 2 days

<p>The available qualification and certification documents of the NDT examiners seeking approval</p> <p>Completes audit report and submits to Decision Maker.</p> <p>Note! The Assessor/Examiner shall check that there are no impartiality issues or conflicts of interest with any of the personnel and or the processes being assessed. If issues are noted then the assessment will be suspended until a resolution by LRQA-CASL management is agreed.</p> <p>*For remote assessments follow QF 7.7 Annex 1</p>	<p>Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDT experience: at least 5 years - On-the-job training: at least 3 audits accompanying already authorized Assessors <p>Maintenance of the qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valid certificate - Valid annual eye test <p>Participation in an annual experience exchange done by the RTPO</p>
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Decision maker:

ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES	LRQA-CASL QUALIFICATION CRITERIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrutinizes ALL documents provided by the Assessor - Takes the certification decision Signs and PED Approval (valid for 3 years) 	<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Engineer at Chartered Engineer level CEng or - A NDT level III holding the relevant method certification <p>Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDT experience: at least 5 years - Maintenance of the qualification: - Valid certificate - Valid eye test - Participation in an annual experience exchange done by the RTPO
	<p>*Note</p>

4 General

4.a Requirements / Scope

This document prescribes the requirements for the approval of NDT operators, for manufacturers or individuals seeking to comply with PED 2014/68/EU Annex I paragraph 3.1.3 for approval of NDT Personnel for non-destructive tests of permanent joints in pressure equipment in categories III and IV.

Note: The approval covers proficiency in one or more of the following methods:

- a) Magnetic testing-MT

- b) Penetrant testing-PT
- c) Eddy Current testing-ET
- d) Radiographic testing-RT
- e) Computed Radiographic Testing-CRT
- f) Digital Radiographic Testing-DRT
- g) Radiographic Interpretation-RI
- h) Ultrasonic testing-UT
- i) Phased Array-UT
- j) Time of Flight Diffraction-TOFD

4.b Responsibilities

LRQA-CASL acts as an Examining Body. LRQA-CASL also appoints, authorises, and controls other Assessors, Certifiers and Decision Makers as required to act on behalf of LRQA-CASL. LRQA-CASL carries overall responsibility for ensuring that the requirements for qualification testing are fully satisfied.

All LRQA-CASL personnel undertaking NDT Operator qualification activities in accordance with this scheme shall hold the appropriate technical authorisations and competencies and be responsible for ensuring the requirements of this scheme are followed.

It is the candidate's/sponsor's responsibility to ensure that the recognition and acceptance of certificates is appropriate to their requirements. For example, some standards state that the Examiner or Examining Body must be acceptable between contracting parties. Whilst LRQA-CASL makes every effort to ensure that its qualification certificates carry appropriate accreditation and that testing and certification activities are carried out in accordance with best practice, it cannot guarantee acceptance by all contracting parties.

All examination and testing activities will be carried out by either LRQA-CASL personnel or other approved contractors as identified in our contract review and contract agreements. For written examinations a LRQA-CASL examiner / invigilator shall moderate.

Individuals engaged to carry out assessment work in connection with the requirements of this document must be approved by LRQA-CASL, in accordance with procedures operated by LRQA-CASL.

The examiner will check that pre-test requirements are fulfilled by the manufacturer/sponsor and or candidate(s). The examiner is responsible for reviewing supporting documentation and the setting of additional examinations and tests. The Certification body is responsible for issuing relevant certificates following an assessment of the reviews, examination results provided by the examiner. All of the above falls under the sole responsibility of the Certification Body.

Any persons certified under this scheme shall inform LRQA-CASL without delay of any issues that may arise that will affect their capability to fulfil the certification requirements. Any person certified under this scheme shall act in a professional and appropriate manner and adhere to the requirements of this scheme.

5. NDT Personnel Qualification Testing

The examiner will ensure that the candidate / sponsor seeking NDT scheme certification submits the application together with a copy of the documented NDT personnel qualification procedure. A desk top review shall be carried out to verify compliance with the relevant criteria, e.g., SNT-TC-1A or ANSI-CP-189. Application(s) should include evidence of the applicant's current NDT qualifications including expiry date and supporting details of current and relevant experience in the specific NDT method(s) / relevant sector(s). The review should confirm the individual's qualification(s) and certification are technically equivalent to the criteria detailed in EN ISO 9712 as per Route C of PD CEN /TR 15589 using Forms QF-10.4 and 10.5.

The on-site audit (and or remote) should confirm that the individual(s) to be approved has:

- Satisfactory vision and colour perception (*near vision acuity shall permit reading a minimum of Jager 1 or Times Roman N 4.5 or equivalent at not less than 30cm with one or both eyes either corrected or uncorrected (*Note! For ASNT Qualified personnel it is recognised that Jager 2 is acceptable to the code*). *Colour vision shall be sufficient that the candidate can distinguish and differentiate contrast between the colours or shades of grey used in the NDT method concerned).
- Completed general and job specific training prior to examination
- Acquired suitable industrial experience in the applicable NDT method and relevant sector(s)
- Been successful in general and relevant specific written qualification examinations
- Been successful in job-specific practical examinations that are relevant to the testing of permanent joints in pressure equipment
- Continues to be qualified, without significant interruption, in the testing of pressure equipment permanent joints
- Is familiar with and able to satisfactorily implement defined NDT procedures and / or NDT instructions for the testing of permanent joints to pressure equipment

Assessment of each of the NDT personnel applying for approval shall consist of:

- A practical competence assessment during which the individual shall be observed satisfactorily applying at least one relevant NDT instruction or procedure for each NDT technique / sector that approval is required. QF10.4

Reporting

- A visit report shall be issued by the examiner and shall include a clear recommendation to issue the final certificate(s) in accordance with this scheme on satisfactory completion.
QF10.5

The candidate agrees not to release/discuss confidential examination materials or participate in any fraudulent test taking practices.

The candidate is required to comply with all relevant Health & Safety requirements and will be responsible to supply and use appropriate PPE.

6 Qualification Approvals (Including Renewal Requirements)

Qualification certificates are only issued following a positive recommendation by the Level 3. The Certifier/Decision will undertake a final review and if found acceptable issue the certificate. Qualification certificates are provided electronically (Note! Paper copies can be provided on request).

Approvals are issued to the to the individual candidate seeking qualification and or the sponsor.

Duplicate approvals may be issued to the sponsoring organisation or candidate to replace any which are lost or destroyed. This can only be done by written request explaining the reasons why further copies are required. (A fee will be charged).

The period of validity of the approval is 3 years as a maximum but will not be longer than the original qualification submitted as per Section 1 (see clause 7 of this scheme in relation to complaints and appeals).

It is recognised that the approved individual may requalify at any time in the 3 year period from the original review assessment, therefore requests for certificate renewal will only be considered subject to confirmation that the original assessment processes and procedures have not changed and that there is evidence of the local requalification process being witnessed and signed off by the recognise level III. Note! In this case the certificates issued will only be extended to a maximum of 3 years from the original assessment certification date. Certificates issued under these circumstances will attract a recertification charge.

Candidate is responsible for initiating the recertification process. Recertification shall follow the same criteria as the initial qualification process

Photocopies are unauthorised by LRQA-CASL and should only be used for internal administrative purposes.

NOTE: Any certificates issued remain the property of LRQA-CASL.

7 Complaints and Appeals

All parties shall be treated fairly and equitably through the implementation of the following procedure.

Where an appellant / person is not satisfied with a decision by LRQA-CASL they will be requested to submit a formal appeal / petition in writing stating his/her case in detail to the MD of LRQA-CASL with the appropriate fee.

Such an appeal / petition must be accompanied by all relevant facts and evidence, and if in the opinion of the Certification Body, an adequate case has been presented, an investigation by LRQA-CASL of the circumstances will be undertaken.

The LRQA-CASL MD will ensure that all relevant information / correspondence is gathered including the appellants / person's written statement and submit this to at least 3 members of the Advisory Group (see QP6). The final decision will be reached based on the conclusions of the Advisory Group.

Once satisfactorily investigated a certificate may be removed, not renewed, not issued or re issued.

Candidates have the right of appeal. Appeals against failure to meet qualification requirements or against non-renewal of the certificate may be made by the candidate or the manufacturer upon application in writing to the Certification Body but must be within one month of the date of examination.

NOTE: QP5 of our QMS also applies

8. Misuse of Approvals and Logos

Misuse of Certificates

It is the policy of LRQA-CASL to control how certificates, brand names, marks and logos are used, and to act in the event of their misuse.

LRQA-CASL recognises that it has a duty to all holders of approvals to ensure that their professional status and valid integrity is maintained, and to eliminate, as far as possible, their fraudulent use or any associated misrepresentations of technical competency.

A set of rules and guidelines, defining the correct use of certificates (and indicating their possible misuse) is printed on the reverse of every certificate issued. These rules, code of conduct and guidelines are set out below. It is a strict condition of the issue of approval of competence or capability that candidates accept these Regulations. Attempts to pass off forged certificates as real ones by using any of the brand names, marks or logos mentioned in this procedure will be dealt with as severely as allowed by British law.

Misuse of brand names & Logos

The current brand name and logo of LRQA-CASL is the unique LRQA-CASL certification of persons logo.

Use of the brand names by any organisation which might result in users of the schemes being misled or which might result in the schemes being brought into disrepute will be acted upon. Any misuse of certificates, brand names, marks (including accreditation marks) or logos which appears to be an infringement of the law will result in the matter being reported to the employer and, where appropriate, to the applicable enforcement agency.

The approved person may use the LRQA-CASL scheme logo as shown on the front of the scheme rules

As indicated herewith



Rules on the Use and Misuse of Approvals

- Photocopies of approvals are not acceptable.
- Approvals are valuable documents which should be kept in a safe place.
- It is required that approval holders keep records of work activity and other details (where applicable).

The approval is only valid:

- For the period indicated in the approval
- If all the fees have been paid
- Is signed by a LRQA-CASL official and the approval holder
- Carries the LRQA-CASL watermark

Neither the approvals nor any of the brand names, marks or logos mentioned in this procedure must be used in a manner that may be considered fraudulent.

Suspending, withdrawing, and reducing scope of certification

LRQA-CASL reserve the right to suspend, withdraw or reduce scope of approval where Scheme Rules are not complied with. This includes the Rules on the use and issue of approval / approvals and logo / logo's as required by QF/9.11.

9. Records

LRQA-CASL maintain records of tests/examinations. Records are held in accordance with our QMS procedure QP1.

10. Addresses

For further general information about the qualifications covered in this document please contact:

<p>LRQA-CASL Spaces Dublin Airport First Floor, Building Two, The Green Dublin Airport Central, Swords, Co Dublin K67 E2H3 Tel: 00353 1566 5266 Mob +44 7901000780 E-mail: LRQA-CASL-Office@LRQA.com Web: www.InspectionCasl.com</p>	<p>LRQA_CASL 1 Trinity Park Bickenhill Lane Birmingham B37 7ES Mob +44 7901000780 E-mail: LRQA-CASL-Office@LRQA.com Web: www.InspectionCasl.com</p>
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Please contact us for any further information in relation to the contents of this document or any documents thereto referenced within it.

Certified individuals are encouraged to frequently visit LRQA-CASL's website to keep informed of any changes which may affect their certification.

Personnel Certification for NDT Operators (Annex 1)

