

ISO 9712:2021 An overview of the objectives of the new edition and its first outcomes

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In Germany, the accredited certification bodies started certifying NDT personnel according to the new ISO 9712 from October 2022. After close-to-one-year of experience gathered in new certification practice, I have summarized the significant changes in the document, the objectives as intended and discussed on national and international levels, and the first outcomes. The procedure and system for certification is slightly changed in the document; the renewal or surveillance of certificates in all levels is possible by passing a practical examination or fulfilling the structured credit system for the NDT method. The renewal applications indicate that credit system is impractical due to its high complexity and paperwork. The required minimum training duration and industrial experience are given in days, a day being at least seven hours, whereas it can be up to twelve hours for proof of industrial experience. The possibilities for reduction of training duration and experience times for candidates with prior NDT experience or higher education are unambiguous and better understood by applicants. The examinations comprise of several elements, allowing candidates and examination centers a flexibility in scheduling. The introduction of the NDT techniques with recommended training durations is a good step forward for harmonization, but there is still work to do for a consensus on an international level.