

Path Forward Imperative: Active Consultation with the Industry & Its User Community – Deployment of Committees in Support of a Certification Scheme

Pui-Kei Yuen¹, Darcy Corcoran², Glenn Tubrett³

¹National NDT Certification Body, Government of Canada, Canada, ¹National Training Society, Quality Control Council Canada (& ISO TC135 SC7 Chair), Canada, ¹National Society, The Canadian Institute for Non-destructive Evaluation (CINDE), Canada

As technology and industry requirements constantly evolves and accelerates, it is imperative for organizations that service a broad user base and industrial sectors to maintain positive community engagement and implement reliable mechanisms for communication and feedback from its users and key stakeholders. This presentation will provide an overview of how various committees were developed and maintained in support of providing reliable channels of communication and feedback to the certification body. It will go over the strategic and logical structure of various subjects and levels of discussion that are relevant to the different aspects of standards interpretation and implementation, strategic planning, policy development, technical requirement oversight, body of knowledge verification, etc. For example, a set of technical and scheme committees for a certification body would the following purpose and responsibilities:

- To provide recommendations to the Certification Body through the Director or his/her delegate(s).
- To provide recommendations that do not contravene laws and regulations.
- To support the development and maintenance of the certification scheme for the NDT personnel certification program. The committee shall fairly and equitably represent the interests of all parties significantly concerned with the certification scheme, without any particular dominating interests. (ref ISO 17024)
- To support the setting and maintaining of the technical standards of examination and certification. Its members shall be qualified for the tasks by an appropriate combination of NDT certification and/or experience, and composed of representatives of interested parties: NDT societies, committees, users, suppliers, training organizations, and government departments as appropriate.
- To assist in obtaining the support of the NDT community for the Personnel Certification Program.
- To provide expertise for the purposes of:
 - drafting documents detailing personnel examination format and content consistent with the standards being implemented;
 - ensuring examination and training syllabi address existing and forecast needs of industry by reviewing externally published and nationally accepted syllabi where they exist, or by developing them where they do not exist;
 - developing examination questions to address shortfalls in the examination question bank(s);
 - developing and approving specifications for practical examination specimens;
 - ensuring that the certification documentation and content is compatible with international standards covering certification of personnel, where desirable and appropriate;
 - undertaking periodic review of the certification documentation and making recommendations for amendment and revision as appropriate.

In conclusion, this overview will provide a broad perspective on how an organization such as a national certification body should actively promote and provide community engagement to chart a path forward that is relevant for its users, stakeholders, and the overall industry.