

Maintaining Concurrent Compliance with Multiple NDT Personnel Certification Standards

J.R. THOMPSON, BINDT, Northampton, United Kingdom

Abstract. The PCN Scheme was developed in the ‘nineteen eighties’ in response to a request from UK industry to implement a single national certification programme for NDT personnel competence, with the aim of replacing the numerous sector specific schemes that existed at that time, and which often resulted in the costly and wasteful requirement for NDT personnel to hold numerous certificates of competence for the same NDT method.

Initially, the PCN Scheme was developed and launched in 1985 with eligibility criteria and examination content based upon those implemented in the well established and internationally respected Certification Scheme for Weldment Inspection Personnel (CSWIP) but, in 1990, the PCN Scheme documentation was revised to reflect the new ISO 9712 criteria (NDT – qualification and certification of NDT personnel), and was republished in 1992 providing compliance with that standard.

In 1993, BINDT was accredited by UKAS as conforming to EN 45013 (general requirements for bodies operating certification of personnel) to deliver ISO 9712 compliant certification. Since that time, The PCN Scheme has implemented a policy of providing its stakeholders with the benefit of compliance, under one PCN certificate, with as many NDT personnel qualification and certification standards as possible, including ISO 9712, EN 473, ISO 11484, ISO 20807 and EN 4179. This has been achieved by adopting the most stringent criteria from each of these standards.

In this paper, the benefits of such an approach, and the pitfalls and practicalities of implementing multiple standards within one certification scheme will be discussed. The paper will also focus on the threats posed to such a policy by the present draft revision of EN 473, highlighting areas of potential conflict with other standards, including ISO 9712.