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Neporušitveno preskušanje - Razlaga standarda SIST EN ISO/IEC 17024 za področje certificiranja osebja

Non-destructive testing - Interpretation of EN ISO/IEC 17024 for NDT personnel certification application

Zerstörungsfreie Prüfung - Interpretation von EN ISO/IEC 17024 für ZfP-Personalzertifizierungsanwendungen

Essais non destructifs - Interprétation de l'EN ISO/CEI 17024 pour l'application de la certification du personnel END

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**Non-destructive testing - Interpretation of EN ISO/IEC 17024 for
NDT personnel certification application**

Zerstörungsfreie Prüfung - Interpretation von EN ISO/IEC
17024 für ZfP-Personalzertifizierungsanwendungen

This draft Technical Report is submitted to CEN members for Technical Committee Approval. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 138.

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Recipients of this draft are invited to submit, with their comments, notification of any relevant patent rights of which they are aware and to provide supporting documentation.

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Foreword

This document (FprCEN/TR 16332:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 138 “Non-destructive testing”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This document is currently submitted to the Technical Committee Approval.

In this document the words “EN 473” are used to designate EN 473 itself or 3rd party international standards or national sector specific 3rd party NDT-standards/schemes in line with EN 473. The present document, which incorporates much of the general guidance from IAF Guide 24, was prepared by a Task Group of CEN/TC 138 to provide guidance to accreditation bodies assessing personnel certification bodies for compliance with EN ISO/IEC 17024 whilst implementing EN 473.

Introduction

Accreditation in Europe is voluntary, but assessment and approval by government appointed agencies, which may also be accreditation bodies, may become mandatory in regulatory sectors such as Pressure Equipment (Pressure Equipment Directive 97/23/EC).

In Europe, personnel requiring to hold independent (3rd party) certification of competence to carry out non-destructive testing (NDT) are qualified and certificated in accordance with the provisions of EN 473. EN 473 becomes the normative document referred to in IAF Guide 24:2003, clause 4.2.27 "The certification body is allowed to explain its findings and/or clarify the requirements of the normative documents ...".

It is intended that this technical report be used in place of IAF Guide 24, since the latter is general by nature and, in places, could conflict with the normative criteria of EN 473, which is specific to the qualification and certification of personnel for non-destructive testing.

1 Scope

The present document is a CEN Technical Report (CEN/TR) on the application of EN ISO/IEC 17024 specifically for the implementation of EN 473.

The guidance provided is in sequence with the criteria of EN ISO/IEC 17024:2003, and makes direct reference to EN 473 where no guidance is considered necessary because EN 473 provides the necessary detail.

It is important to note that the guidance provided herein is specifically for certification bodies implementing EN 473, and not for employers implementing EN 4179:2009 which includes, in Clause 2, a normative reference to EN ISO/IEC 17024:2003.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 473:2008, *Non-destructive testing — Qualification and certification of NDT personnel — General principles*

EN ISO/IEC 17024:2003, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (ISO/IEC 17024:2003)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following term and definition applies

3.1

accreditation

procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body is competent to carry out certification according to EN 473

4 Requirements for certification bodies

4.1 Certification body

Due to the general character of the requirements in EN ISO 17024 and the specificities of the NDT personnel certification scheme in EN 473, differing interpretation of requirements may occur, resulting in conflicts between the accreditation and the certification body. It is recommended that such conflicts be dealt with under the general principles of appeal mechanisms, i.e. ruled by an arbitration body composed of a representative of both parties and an independent organization agreed by both parties.

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4.2 Organizational structure

4.2.1 Refer to EN 473. Accreditation shall only be granted to a body which is a legal entity as referenced in EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, clause 4.2.1 d) and will be confined to declared scopes, activities and locations. If the certification activities are carried out by a legal entity which is part of a larger organization, the links with other parts of the larger organization shall be clearly defined and should demonstrate that no conflict of interest exists. Relevant information on activities performed by the other parts of the larger organization shall be given by the certification body to the accreditation body and shall be maintained up-to-date.

Demonstration that a certification body is a legal entity, as required under EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.1 d) means that if an applicant certification body is not itself a legal entity but is part of a larger legal entity, accreditation shall only be granted to the entire legal entity. In such a situation, the structure of the entire legal entity may be subject to audit by the accreditation body in order to pursue specific audit trails and/or review records relating to the certification body. The part of the legal entity that forms the actual certification body may trade under a distinctive name, which together with the name of the legal entity should also appear on the accreditation certificate.

For the purposes of EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.1 d) certification bodies which are part of government, or are government departments, will be deemed to be legal entities on the basis of their governmental status. Such bodies' status and structure shall be formally documented and the bodies shall comply with all the requirements of EN ISO/IEC 17024. If the decision to issue, withhold or withdraw certification in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.1.c) 3) is taken by a committee comprising, among others, representatives with a vested interest in the person subject for decision, the operational procedures of the certification body should ensure that these representatives declare a conflict of interest and do not participate in the certification decision.

Impartiality and independence of the certification body should be established at all levels including:

- structure of the organization;
- policies and procedures;
- evaluation;
- decisions and appeals on certification.

A certification body should not certify a person it employs unless no appropriate accredited third party exists in its own country or is available in practice to undertake the certification. Where such cases could arise, a certification body shall demonstrate to the accreditation body the procedures it has adopted in order to maintain independence and impartiality in such circumstances. These could include:

- maintaining the same standards of evaluation and confidentiality towards all candidates;
- the use of independent examiners;
- independent monitoring of the certification process.

The certification body shall require examiners to declare any information that may reveal a conflict of interest regarding the impartiality of the candidate's examination. The certification body has the responsibility to identify and evaluate such situations and to assign responsibilities and tasks so as to ensure that impartiality is not compromised.

The responsible management, staff and/or personnel mentioned in EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.7 need not be exclusively engaged by the certification body, but their other employment shall not be such as to compromise their impartiality.

4.2.2 Refer to EN 473: 2008, 5.1.2. The certification body shall not engage in activities that could compromise its impartiality.

EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.2 provides that the certification body should not allow commercial or other considerations to influence the confidentiality, objectivity or impartiality of the certification process. Conformity with this clause is particularly relevant when the financial resources to set up a certification body have been provided by a particular interest that predominates in the shareholding and/or the board of directors.

EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.2 requires that the documented structure of the certification body has built into it provision for the participation of all the significantly concerned parties in the different sectors in which it operates, including the consideration of public interest. This should normally be through some kind of committee. This structure shall be formally established at the highest level within the organization either in the documentation that establishes the certification body's legal status or by some other means that prevents it being changed in a manner that compromises the safeguarding of impartiality. Any change in this structure should take into account advice from the committee, or equivalent, referred to in EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.2.

Application of EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.2 requires judgement on whether all parties significantly concerned in the system are able to participate. What is essential is that all identifiable major interests should be given the opportunity to participate, and that a balance of interests, where no single interest predominates, is achieved. For practical reasons there may be a need to restrict the number of members.

On request of the committee or equivalent referred to in EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.2 the management responsible for the various functions described in EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.1 c) should provide to that committee or equivalent all the necessary information. This includes the reasons for all significant decisions, actions, and the selection of persons responsible for particular activities, in respect of certification, to enable the certification body to ensure proper and impartial certification. If the advice of this committee or equivalent is not respected in these matters by the management, the committee or equivalent shall take appropriate measures, which may include informing the accreditation body.

The committee or equivalent referred to in EN ISO/IEC 17024: 2003, 4.2.2 may also be the scheme committee provided it has the required technical competence to also act as a scheme committee for one or more schemes as appropriate.

4.2.3 The certification body shall form a scheme committee to define procedures or requirements and rules necessary for the reliable execution of all tasks of the certification body which are not covered by the documents cited in Clause 2. This includes at least:

- professional ethical rules;
- requirements for examiners;
- control of test equipment and material;
- maintenance of examination questions and test specimen;
- examination rules;
- complaint procedures;
- rules for confidentiality/data security;

For special tasks, the scheme committee may form subcommittees. When discussing examination related tasks, the relevant subcommittee should be predominantly composed of NDT individuals certified to level 3.