



29 March, 2017

Committee Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Government Procurement
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Clauses 10.10, 10.18 and 10.37

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) & Condition Monitoring (CM) is a wide group of analysis techniques used in industry to evaluate the properties of a material, components or systems without causing damage. Common NDT methods include ultrasonic, magnetic-particle, liquid penetrant, radiographic, remote visual inspection, and eddy-current testing.

There are basically two stages where industry requires NDT & CM and related services:

- I. Construction/Fabrication – to ensure the welding and fabrication of plant and equipment is satisfactory for the item to be released into service. To ensure that the plant is safe for initial use to prevent damage to personnel, other plant and/or the environment.
- II. Post Construction / In-service – once an item of plant and equipment has been in service for some time it may be subject to: corrosion, fatigue or wear. The role of NDT is to detect, measure and monitor degradation of plant and equipment, to ensure that the plant is safe for continued use to prevent damage to personnel, other plant and/or the environment.

About AINDT

The Australian Institute for Non-Destructive Testing (AINDT), is a not-for-profit association that has represented the NDT and CM industry as the peak body in Australia since 1963.

Role of the AINDT

- Promote the discipline of NDT & CM as a profession
- Advance the practices and benefits of NDT & CM at both a national and international level
- Facilitate the exchange of information between members, industry and the community
- Operate a JAS/ANZ accredited national certification body in the qualification and certification of NDT & CM personnel
- Facilitate and promote NDT & CM research and development the application of NDT & CM technology
- Provide technical support and guidance for skills development and training of non-destructive testing personnel in Australia
- Lobby state and federal government departments on behalf of AINDT members in an effort to raise the profile of NDT & CM within Australia



NDT & CM Certification

To ensure initial and continued safety of plant and equipment, Australian Standards nominate mandatory requirements for the training, qualification and certification of personnel performing Non Destructive Testing (NDT) & Condition Monitoring (CM). The current requirement for most standards is AS ISO9712 (NDT), ISO18436 (CM) or equivalent. There are currently thirty eight (38) Australian Standards that mandate AS ISO9712 or equivalent certification for personnel conducting NDT.

Some of these standards include:

AS 1554 Series	Structural Steel Welding
AS1228:2016	Pressure Equipment – Boilers
AS/NZS 2885.2:2016	Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum - Welding
AS/NZS 5131:2016	Structural Steelwork – Fabrication and Erection

The Australian Institute for Non-Destructive Testing (AINDT) is one of only 11 countries (of the approximately 65 offering the scheme) that have been recognised by the International Committee for Non-Destructive Testing (ICNDT) as being in compliance with the code requirements of AS ISO9712. Within the South East Asian region the AINDT is one of only 3 bodies currently accredited by an IAF signatory accreditation body to deliver Certification to ISO9712 and 1 of only 2 national societies accredited globally to be able to offer personnel certification against the requirements of ISO18436 for Condition Monitoring, the other society being the British Institute Of NDT (BINDT).

The AINDT currently has over two thousand (2000) certified members across a wide variety of methods and sectors.

The Problem

With a declining manufacturing sector, Australia has seen a significant increase in the use of imported materials, components and structures to meet industrial demand. In all too many cases the quality of the supplied products is not in line with Australian Standard requirements. The AINDT believe that many of these issues are due to a lack of Quality Assurance (QA) and suitable NDT.

In the Asian market, in particular, the following issues arise:

- Most NDT is performed by the manufacturer, creating a conflict of interest (not an independent inspection)
- Most NDT is performed by technicians who don't hold equivalent qualifications/certifications
- Most NDT is performed by personnel that have little or no familiarity with Australian Standards and their specific quality requirements
- Limited oversight or conformity assessment (In Australia NDT laboratories are assessed for quality and systems against ISO17025 by NATA)

Extract taken From AS4037:1999 Pressure Equipment – Examination and Testing

4.3 EXAMINATION OF IMPORTED COMPONENTS For equipment and components manufactured outside Australia, the manufacturer shall ensure that the quality of non-destructive examination and the qualification of the personnel carrying out the examination is comparable with the requirements of this Standard.



Clause Implementation for Non-Destructive Testing to ensure safety and integrity.

Clause 10.10: Where an Australian standard is applicable for goods or services being procured, tender responses must demonstrate the capability to meet the Australian standard, and contracts must contain evidence of the applicable standards (see paragraph 10.37).

Implementation:

Where applicable, and in accordance with Australian Standards, engineering products subject to Non-Destructive Testing, whether manufactured in Australia or Overseas, must be independently inspected by an accredited laboratory to ISO17025 (NATA) and personnel performing testing certified to AS ISO9712 (AINDT).

Clause 10.18: Officials must make reasonable enquiries that the procurement is carried out considering relevant regulations and/or regulatory frameworks, including but not limited to tenderers' practices regarding: a. labour regulations, including ethical employment practices; b. occupational, health and safety; and c. environmental impacts.

Implementation:

Where applicable, and in accordance with Australian Standards, engineering products subject to Non-Destructive Testing, whether manufactured in Australia or Overseas, must be independently inspected by an accredited laboratory to ISO17025 (NATA) and personnel performing testing certified to AS ISO9712 (AINDT).

Clause 10.37: Where applying a standard (Australian, or in its absence, international) for goods or services, relevant entities must make reasonable enquiries to determine compliance with that standard: a. this includes gathering evidence of relevant certifications; and b. periodic auditing of compliance by an independent assessor.

Implementation:

Where applicable, and in accordance with Australian Standards, engineering products subject to Non-Destructive Testing, whether manufactured in Australia or Overseas, must be independently inspected by an accredited laboratory to ISO17025 (NATA) and personnel performing testing certified to AS ISO9712 (AINDT).

Listed in appendix 1 to this document are the AINDT Company, Corporate, Supporting & Sustaining members, each membership category has tailored incentives which are provided to satisfy individual company requirements.

Kind Regards

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AINDT

Paul Grosser (CEng)
Federal President
AINDT