

Approval Date: April 9, 2010

Code Cases will remain available for use until annulled
by the applicable Standards Committee.

Case N-788
Third Party NDE Certification Organizations
Section XI, Division 1

Inquiry: What alternatives to the requirements of IWA-2300 may be used for qualification and certification of NDE personnel?

Reply: It is the opinion of the Committee that Third Party NDE Certification Organizations may be used in lieu of employer-based certification of Level II and III NDE personnel as follows:

1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD PARTY NDE CERTIFICATION

(a) The Third Party NDE Certification Organization is an independent body, such as a technical society, research organization, or government agency, separate from the organizations that use the NDE personnel that it certifies and not owned by any organization that uses such certified NDE personnel. The Third Party NDE Certification Organization shall have demonstrated experience in administration of programs for certification of personnel based on factors including training and examination, for NDE, inspection, quality, or other power industry service.

(b) The Third Party NDE Certification Organization's Quality Assurance Program is documented and complies with the applicable quality assurance program criteria of 10CFR50 Appendix B or the 1994 Edition of ASME NQA-1, Part 1, Basic Requirements and Supplementary Requirements for Nuclear Facilities, except that in lieu of Supplement 2S-2, the qualification of nondestructive examination personnel shall be as required by this Case.

(c) The Organization is qualified in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of this Case.

(d) The Organization makes available to the Inspector the examination results for certified NDE personnel and other documents requested by the Inspector to assure compliance with the requirements of this Case.

(e) Certification in surface and volumetric methods shall be based on the experience, training, and examination requirements of CP-189 and additional initial training and

experience requirements of Appendix VII for ultrasonic examination; however, for the Specific Examination, standards, specifications, and procedures typical of those used for inservice inspection of nuclear power plant components may be used in lieu of those from a specific employer. Level III examination requirements of IWA-2323 shall be applied.

(f) Certification for VT-1, VT-2, and VT-3 visual examination shall be based on the experience, training, and examination requirements of Appendix VI; however, for the Specific Examination, standards, specifications, and procedures typical of those used for inservice inspection of nuclear power plant components may be used in lieu of those from a specific employer.

(g) To maintain certification, the vision tests of IWA-2321 are required.

(h) It is the duty of the Inspector to verify that Third Party NDE Certification Organizations used to certify NDE personnel satisfy the applicable requirements described in (a) through (h).

2 QUALIFICATION OF THIRD PARTY NDE CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS

(a) The qualification of a Third Party NDE Certification Organization requires evaluation of the Organization's Quality Assurance Program in accordance with the requirements of (1) through (9).

(1) The Quality Assurance Program of the Third Party NDE Certification Organization shall be surveyed, accepted, and audited by the party performing the evaluation on the basis of its compliance with (a) through (h) of 1. The party performing the evaluation may be the Owner, the Owner's designee, or other organizations, such as those supplying NDE services to the Owner.

(2) The Third Party NDE Certification Organization's Quality Assurance Manual shall be the guide for surveying and auditing the Third Party NDE Certification Organization's continued compliance with the accepted Quality Assurance Program.

(3) The Third Party NDE Certification Organization shall make available, for on-site review by the party performing the evaluation, any procedures, process sheets, or drawings necessary to understand the Program. The Third

The Committee's function is to establish rules of safety, relating only to pressure integrity, governing the construction of boilers, pressure vessels, transport tanks and nuclear components, and inservice inspection for pressure integrity of nuclear components and transport tanks, and to interpret these rules when questions arise regarding their intent. This Code does not address other safety issues relating to the construction of boilers, pressure vessels, transport tanks and nuclear components, and the inservice inspection of nuclear components and transport tanks. The user of the Code should refer to other pertinent codes, standards, laws, regulations or other relevant documents.

Party NDE Certification Organization shall keep a controlled copy of the Manual on file and in a place and manner readily available to the party performing the audit.

(4) The Third Party NDE Certification Organization shall notify the parties who have accepted its Program of proposed revisions to the Quality Assurance Manual. The party accepting the Program shall evaluate and accept such revisions prior to implementation of the revisions.

(5) If the Third Party NDE Certification Organization's scope of activities includes approval and control of suppliers, such as operators of remote examination facilities, this activity shall be included in the Third Party NDE Certification Organization's Quality Assurance Manual and shall be reviewed by the party accepting the Program. During surveys or audits of Third Party NDE Certification Organizations, the party performing the evaluation shall review objective evidence that the Organization's control of suppliers is adequate to assure compliance with the applicable requirements of this Case.

(6) If the Third Party NDE Certification Organization's scope includes shipment of examination materials to others, such as remote examination facilities, control of this activity shall be included in the Quality Assurance Manual and shall be reviewed by the party accepting the Program. During surveys or audits of Third Party NDE Certification Organizations, the party performing the evaluation shall review objective evidence that the qualified Organization's control of shipments is adequate to assure that the examination materials are not compromised.

(7) Audits by parties performing evaluations of Third Party NDE Certification Organizations shall meet the following requirements:

(a) The party performing the evaluations shall include the audit frequency in its Quality Assurance Manual.

(b) The audit frequency shall be at least once triennially during the interval in which NDE personnel certified by the Third Party NDE Certification Organization are used.

(c) Audits shall be performed in accordance with written procedures or checklists by personnel not having direct responsibility in the areas being audited.

(d) Audit results shall be documented by auditing personnel for review by management having responsibility in the area being audited.

(e) Procedures shall include provisions for documentation of corrective action taken in response to deficiencies. Follow-up action, including re-audit of deficient areas where indicated, shall be taken to verify implementation of such corrective actions.

(8) The party performing the evaluation shall supplement triennial audits with performance assessments documenting the effectiveness of the Third Party NDE Certification Organization's Quality Assurance Program. Performance assessments shall meet the following requirements.

(a) Assessment schedules shall be commensurate with the schedule of utilization of NDE personnel certified by the Third Party NDE Certification Organization, but assessment need not occur more frequently than once annually.

(b) Assessments shall include a documented review of a Third Party NDE Certification Organization's history of conditions adverse to quality, nonconformances, and corrective actions.

(9) The party performing the evaluation shall verify that the Third Party NDE Certification Organization has a mechanism to provide documents to the Inspector in accordance with 1(d).

(b) If a Third Party NDE Certification Organization has been qualified by an Owner, it is not necessary for another party to requalify that Organization for use of NDE personnel certified by that Organization if those NDE personnel will be providing services to an Owner who qualified the Third Party NDE Certification Organization. A vendor is not required to qualify a Third Party NDE Certification Organization when using personnel qualified by that Organization for services provided to an Owner who has previously qualified that Organization.