

# NDT Qualifications

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Federal Aviation  
Administration





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- **Most recent signed memo: May 2, 2005**
- **Signed by:**
  - Flight Standards (AFS)
  - Certification (AIR)
- **AFS, AIR Part of Aviation Safety (AVS) that has (ASIs)**



- **There is no FAA regulatory requirement specific to Qualified NDT Inspectors**
- **FAA requires people be Qualified to perform inspection in a manner acceptable to the Administrator**



- The FAA does NOT accept third party certification
- The FAA recognizes use of a third party in a company's approved quality process



- **The existing memo was rewritten with some enhancements**



- **FAA ASIs audit**
- **Memo is audit guidance for FAA ASIs**



- **There is also guidance to the aviation industry in Advisory Circular 65-31A titled: “Training, Qualification, and Certification of Nondestructive Inspection (NDI) Personnel”**
- **Initiated by Flight Standards, dated 4/25/03**
- **Starts off with earlier memo version**



# National

- **Military standards**
- **Professional society standards**
- **Professional association standards**
- **Considered acceptable**



# General

- **MIL- STD-410E, Military Standard, Non Destructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification**
- **SNT-TC-1A, Recommended Practice, Personnel Qualification and Certification in NDT (2006)**



# Aviation Specific

- ATA Specification 105, Air Transport Association, Guidelines for Training and Qualifying Personnel in Nondestructive Testing Methods
- AIA-NAS-410, Aerospace Industries Association, National Aerospace Standard, Certification & Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel. This document has superseded MIL-STD-410E

# International

- **Standards generated by other regulatory agencies and national qualification/certification programs have been and are considered acceptable to the FAA**
- **Example: Individuals considered NDT qualified/certified under EN 4179 Aerospace Series – “Qualification and Approval of Personnel for Nondestructive Testing” (EN 4179, as published, is technically equivalent to AIA NAS 410) are considered acceptable to the FAA**

# Vision Exams

- **Documented acuity and color testing at one year intervals**
- **Based on guidance from the Office of Aviation Medicine**



- **Near Distance**

- In at least one eye 20/25 (Snellen) at 14” – 18” or equivalent

- **Color**

- Capable of adequately distinguishing/differentiating colors in process

- **Documentation**

- Required
- Retained by employer

# Levels of Qualification

- **Competence: I, II, III ...**
- **Areas: Inspector, Trainer, Auditor**
- **Perform, only at levels, and functions qualified to**



# Training

- **Documented**
  - Initial
  - Recurrent
- **Includes**
  - Standards
  - Methods
  - At Levels/function used
- **Mix**
  - Classroom
  - Practical
  - On the Job
- **Frequency/content**
  - Under guidance qualified to

# Testing

- **Demonstrate Proficiency**
  - Classroom
  - Practical application



# Experience

- **Required**
  - in the test method
- **Recent**
  - 6 – 12 months
  - (6 Preferred)
- **Re-qualify**
  - If not met

# Disqualification

- **Procedure in place to allow an organization to disqualify an NDT individual from performing inspections when they do not meet the company's standards**

# Documentation

- **Can be considered**
  - Company's "certification" of qualification
- **Company roster**
  - Qualified
  - Disqualified
- **Records, to substantiate qualification**
  - Education
  - Experience
  - Vision
  - Training



The Memo is posted on the AIR-200 Production Best Practices web site at:

[http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/air\\_cert/production\\_approvals/mfg\\_best\\_practice/](http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/air_cert/production_approvals/mfg_best_practice/)

# COMMENTS?

