

## **Minutes of NANDTB**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**CASA Office, 16 Furzer Street Phillip, Canberra ACT**

**10.00 – 16.00**

1. Opening: Tony Collier was delayed so Shayne Flynn opened the meeting at 1010 and thanked CASA for the provision of the meeting facility. Tony Collier chaired the meeting following the lunch break.
2. Present: Brian Tydeman (BT), Peter Virtue (PV), Shayne Flynn (SF), Chad Morgan (CM), Ron Quirk (RQ), Gavin Smith (GS), Gary Martin (GM), Tony Collier (TC), Colin Hockings (CH).  
Observers: Jed Murray (JM), Trevor Robinson (TR), David Villiers (DV).  
Apologies: Malcom Oakey, Garry Bowden.  
By invitation: Len Bischard
3. Adoption of the agenda – PV/GM
4. Disclosures of interest - Dr Gary Martin declared that he has an interest in training issues.
5. Acceptance of previous minutes August 2007 CM/GS
6. Business arising from the minutes and not dealt with in the main agenda –
  - 10.1 Consideration of an arrangement that ensures CASA and NANDTB- TC/CH  
This item will be covered by the proposed MOU. Action TR/TC/CH
  - 10.7 Personnel available to attend future European NANDTB Forum meetings- ALL  
This item resolved that those which the ability to attend the meetings should advise the Chairman in a timely manner, given that the meetings are held about six months apart. Item closed
  - 10.8 Progress with Web site- CH/CM/ALL This item included in item 10.2 of this meeting's agenda.
  - 10.9 Aerospace Seminar with CASA and NSW AINDT Branch- ALL Arrangements are finalised for tomorrow.
  - 10.10 Promotion/notice of Board elections for early 2008- CH reported on the promotion of elections.
  - 10.11 NDT Q&A for the CASA Safety Magazine-.CH This item carried over to the next meeting. Action CH
  - 10.12 Progress on PT and MT CAAPs- TC/CH TR reported that Airworthiness Bulletins would be a better alternative to CAAPs. There is a need to raise an instrument to make these approved data. TR has some administrative work to do before they can be released. MPI is to be settled first followed by the PT AWB. Action TR

12.1 AINDT is to be made aware of meeting dates so that schedules do not clash.- PV to advise NANDTB of known dates. PV reported that he will remain in contact with the AINDT CB and advise of meeting dates in a timely manner. Item closed

#### **6.1 Progress on Board Projects:**

SF/TC Assessment of Personnel- Recognition of Training – SF reported on progress and distributed a draft document for discussion. All to review the document when Shayne sends it electronically. Action. SF & ALL

Web site – see item 10.2

CM/NJ Control of Examinations procedure (see 10.3 and 10.5(6)).

*Note: The document prepared by CM refers to assessment of Level 3s and is not a general control of examinations. The value of the CM document may be best used in conjunction with item 10.3, and control of examinations discussed at 10.5(6)?* Agreed to include this in item 10.5(6)

TC Government funding for the Board's activities. TC had nothing to report.

7. Correspondence in / out – CH tabled a correspondence summary.

8. Chairman's report - TC Reported on the progress of the PT MT CAAPs/AWBs. Reinforced SF's view on moving projects forward, and not having things linger. He also noted the importance of attendance by Board members.

9. Sub-committee reports – See above

#### **10. General business**

**10.1** Arousing involvement/interest for the Board and its activities from the aerospace industry (from last meeting) – TC reported that he approached several GA organisations but that there was not much interest. He stated that he has no distinct strategies for raising awareness and interest in the NANDTB. TR reported on CASA seminars not being well enough attended by these groups, so it suffers the same fate, and relies on reactivity of the industry as the stimulus for interest.

**10.2** Progress with Web site – CH noted that the Board owed a recognition of Leanne Fogarty, and a presentation was made to her by the Board for her efforts. Members are to make suggestions for improvements and corrections- DV suggested it should be easier to navigate, and SF noted an archive file should be regularly used for storage of old data. Once the Board determines how it will recognise Level 3s it will post these on the site. TR noted that when the new regulations (Part 66 and 145 ) the NDT airworthiness authorities will be removed and so industry access to Level 3s will be important. CH to advise Leanne of what files to archive and what new material to include. All members agreed that it was very important to keep the site current and relevant. Action CH/CM

**10.3** Recognition of Level 3 personnel – discussion paper. CH (CM) CH introduced the paper and discussion followed. SF suggested that that the Board needed to show some rigour in the identification of Level 3. GS noted that the path of AINDT examinations may be required for level 3. CM reported on the in-house method he went through for his level 3 which was based on the ASNT question database. RQ asked whether when the standard changed did this invalidate those who were previously approved as Level 3 under the earlier document? CM explained how their in-house examinations were conducted. DV noted that the national standard (AINDT)

should be used if it is suitable, and not to start again to develop one. DV is to provide CASA's requirements in correspondence to the Board. Members are to review the agenda paper again and form an opinion on this subject to advance the preparation of a Policy/Procedure. Action DV/All

**10.4** Article about the Board for Materials Australia. CH noted that Materials Australia produces a specific NDT edition each year. The Board agreed that CH should prepare an article to describe and promote the Board. Action CH

**10.5** Other projects – Agenda paper –All

10.5 (1) Affiliation with the AINDT: SF noted that an alliance with AINDT would be beneficial, from an administrative and financial perspective. RQ noted that the Board recognises AINDT examinations, and the fact that persons from AINDT are appointed to the Board, so a tie already exists. The Board agreed that formalisation of a relationship may be beneficial. BT agreed. DV noted that CASA can not mandate any person to be a member of an association such as AINDT. SF to draft an affiliation document for consideration by the Board before offering it to AINDT. Action SF

10.5(2) Minimum Requirements for Outside Agencies (Training Providers). SF noted the requirements for AQTF. Instructors should be AQTF 4 workplace training and assessor standard. CASA would be expecting this sort of approach to any organisation providing training. The Board is to consider what competencies and questions for level 3 need to be formulated.

SF noted how the AINDT Certification Board deals with applications for level 3, discussing how the information provided by the candidate is assessed. The AINDT Basic exam is a one-off, which does not need to be repeated. The situation to date which still relies heavily on in-house training on specific tasks and processes, has meant that AINDT can only be expected to provide the general and in some cases practical examinations. Action All

10.5 (2a) Outside Agency Audit criteria Paper circulated was discussed. Paper tabled and generally accepted. TR to take it to colleagues for comment. JM noted RTO guidelines exist which could be used. ([www.ntis.gov.au](http://www.ntis.gov.au)) JM to provide a draft document to circulate to the Board. Action JM

10.5 (3) Interpretation of AS 3669 . RQ/GS to draft up a document for discussion. DV suggested that the PT and MT documents currently being prepared by CASA and the Board could be part of our procedures manual, but this would need more work. Action RQ/GS

10.5 (4) Approval of "limited" training and examinations. There was some discussion on how the Board would deal with such questions. If OEM doesn't specify a level of inspector, then another level may be used. TR noted the trend under EASA regulations in Europe to approve AMEs to certify for specific tasks, effectively assuming the LAME responsibility for that task (only). This could apply to NDT as well. JM noted that the RAAF instituted a level 2 limited category to address specific problems where level 2 was required but it was not practical to have fully qualified level 2 staff on site. GM and others noted that this was not in accordance with AS3669. Item closed at this time. ***Out of session TC has drawn attention to AS3669-2006 Section 4 Paragraph 4.1 which clearly allows the sub division of any of the Levels provided it is in the organisations written requirement.***

10.5 (5) Select Syllabi for NDT methods. AINDT Curriculum to be hot link on our web page. CH to arrange for the web site to have a hot link to the AINDT curriculum as a standard acceptable to the Board. Action CH

10.5 (6) Control of Examinations. Part 147 of the Regulations has suitable guidance on this subject. It was suggested that a link to the CASA web site and an overview document on the Board's web page is needed. PV/CM to produce a document for discussion. Action PV/CM

10.5 (7) Seminars/Events – Opportunities should be taken to promote the board to the Aerospace industries. TR noted that the upcoming seminar is beneficial and the use of the deputy CEO at the seminar raises its profile and awareness at a high level within CASA. TR noted that when renewal letters are sent for airworthiness authorities these could include information about the Board. He also suggested that self promotion must come from within the board. A position on the Board responsible for publicity was suggested but not accepted. It was agreed that the use of the Aviation Safety Digest, and other publications should be used.

## **10.6 Report from CASA - TR**

### **Impending Restructure:**

Around the second quarter 2008 it is expected that NDT, as well as other ancillary aviation activities such as Weight & Balance (Weight Control Authorities) and Welding (Welding Authorities) will be administered by the Airworthiness Engineering Branch.

The yet to formed Airworthiness Engineering Branch (AEB) will essentially consist of what was MCANTO (Manufacturing, Certification and New Technologies Office) plus a new Maintenance/Continuing Airworthiness section.

To facilitate the operation of the new branch a number of new positions will be created. One such position will look after NDT, Weight & Balance and Welding. It is envisaged this position will be at CS3 level (about \$60,000pa).

### **Memorandum of Understanding:**

The original letter from PLET Group General Manager Graeme Edkins has reached its used-by limit. Edkins no longer works for CASA and the operating environment of both CASA and the NDT industry (through the Board) has developed beyond the intent of the original letter.

A MOU will formalise the relationship between CASA and the NANDTBA, outlining expectations and deliverables.

While tentative agreement regarding a MOU has been forthcoming, the devil is in the detail, which needs to be established at executive levels of both organisations.

### **Web Page:**

Leanne Fogarty has done a marvellous job constructing the NANDTBA webpage.

The NANDTBA needs to start populating the web site with information to make it 'live' and relevant for users. This could include having other websites linked to NANDTBAs website, academic or trade papers on NDT, a discussion forum or a list of Level 3 technicians.

## **New Maintenance Regulations and the 'Blue Book':**

As will be discussed by Hondo Gratton at tomorrow's seminar, the transition to the new regulations will see the gradual extinction of the NDT Airworthiness Authority. It will be the responsibility of Part 145 organisations to recognise the appropriate qualifications of NDT personnel IAW AS 3669.

This event will see an increase in the role of the NANDTBA, which they need to prepare. Decisions such as formally accrediting (and renewing) Level 3 Technicians, promoting Aerospace NDT as a standalone career, an increase in training programmes and implementing a code of conduct need a response.

### **Visual Acuity:**

Irrespective of the requirements contained in CAO 100.27 'Non-Destructive Testing Authority' or AS 3669 'Non-Destructive testing–Qualification and approval of personnel–Aerospace', the visual acuity requirements need to be aligned with methods better understood by the optical fraternity. Jaeger No.1 and Times Roman N4.5 seems to create considerable confusion and consternation among Optometrists.

### **CAOs Morphing:**

The conversion of the two NDT CAOs (108.9 and 108.10) into flexible AWBs is nearing completion. I'm awaiting Board resolution on the question of paint thickness. Once the paint question is resolved, and a modicum of internal/external consultation is completed, I shall start the ball rolling in cancelling the two CAOs (as well as CAAP 42V-1(0) 'Magnetic particle Inspection of engine components as per AD/ENG/4', draft CAAP 42V-3(0) 'Magnetic particle Inspection (MPI) – Use and Implementation of ASTM-E-1444' and possibly three AWBs), getting the AWBs recognised as approved data under CAR (1988) 2A and the obligatory education campaign to inform the aviation community – both industry and government – of the changes.

Letter required from the Board to CASA requesting a MOU.                      Action TR/TC

**10.7** Report from RAAF – JM reported that government recruiting and training is now to civilian qualifications and so his involvement with the Board makes sure that 3669 compliance is met. The RAAF is also trying to balance AS3669 with other workplace requirements. Recertification of NDT technicians is now at 5 years. Training hours don't comply with those in the standard but refer to national competencies so are acceptable to Appendix B. Jed suggested that he will freely share any documents relevant to both organisations.

The RAAF also continue train people on the use of radio-isotopes even though they are not used at present. The yearly NDI conference is an opportunity for updating defence staff on NANDTB activities. He stated that six RAAF personnel would be attending the seminar tomorrow. He also noted that the RAAF had experienced a 100% turnover of staff in the past 5 years due to many moving into civilian jobs. Operating civilian aircraft to civilian standards has brought more requirements to take note of CASA Regulations and reinforced the use of AS 3669.

TC asked if AS3669 was to be the sole standard for NDT technicians within the RAAF. JM affirmed the use of AS3669 but noted that the use of Annex B of the standard allows the RAAF to vary some aspects of the standard.

**10.8** Advice to CASA for the proposed MPI Airworthiness Bulletin on how inspectors should deal with paint or other coatings on parts requiring MPI – TR was advised by the board that the paint should be removed. DV suggested words that place the onus on the inspector to assess the paint and have it removed if the inspector is not confident that the inspection it degrades the quality of the inspection. This was agreed as a starting position. For plating this is not to be subject to the same scrutiny.

**10.9** New Logo – Board to consider a better, more contemporary logo- Attachment.  
GM to prepare some designs. Action GM

**10.10.** Members’ contact details – verify or update. Item closed

**10.11** Legality (and other implications) of certification for NDT when the task is not directly undertaken by the certifier- TC/TR – TR reported that Airworthiness Authority holders do not have supervisory rights, so the person who signs for the work must have done it personally. TR noted that other Regulators experience similar problems of not following procedures and it is difficult to maintain a close auditing function of such activities in the field. He also suggested some CASA field officers may benefit from some NDT training. TC was keen to emphasise that this subject needed to be brought to the attention of NDTers and maintenance managers. TR/DV suggested that the aviation digest or other avenues could be used. Even on the NANDTB web site. See Regulation 6 for details. SF noted that internationally the failure rates for NDT examinations are rising, and that it is thought that this is due to candidates having only little OJT before sitting the exams. TC to write to TR on the subject. Action TC

**10.12** Summary of Board achievements, progress and forward direction – discussion. TC noted the longer than desirable timeframe for action by CASA on the PT and MT inspection documents (AWB). TR replied that he was not able to action these until the issue of removal of paint was resolved. Mention of the recognition by European Boards, and an MOU being developed. SF believed that much of the activity was “Ice berg” in nature and not yet visible. He also suggested setting goal dates, which was agreed by all members. The development of the Web Site was also sited as an achievement. TR noted that by 6/08 the AWBs should be approved documents and other administrative matters settled. This is with an associated education process to support the changes. He also noted that raising the issue of lack of Level 3 s could be a source of government funding. Item closed

**11.** Election of officials or representatives – Agenda paper- Discussion on how to conduct the upcoming election was discussed. It was agreed that a web based approach would be attempted. Board members wishing to re-nominate should do so before 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008. All nominees should prepare a 50 word biography to be placed on the ballot sheet for electors to consider. CH to discuss with Leanne Fogarty. Action CH/All

## **12 Other Business**

**12.1-** Conditions for the invitation of observers to Board Meetings. – Observers were asked to leave the meeting while CH introduced a discussion that the invitation of non-Board members should be subject to some controlling policy. It was agreed that the invitation to attend Board meetings is to be made on the basis of that attendance

contributing to the business of the Board. Members are to be advised of invitations prior to the meeting and the invitation is to be approved by the Chairman.

Action CH

### **13. Agreed actions**

**August 07 10.11** NDT Q&A for the CASA Safety Magazine-.CH This item carried over to the next meeting.

Action CH

**6.1** All to review the Personnel and Training document when Shayne sends it electronically.

Action. SF & All

**10.2** CH to advise Leanne of what files to archive and what new material to include.

Action CH/CM

**10.3** Recognition of Level 3 personnel –. Members are to review the agenda paper again and form an opinion on this subject to advance the preparation of a Policy/Procedure.

Action All

**10.4** The Board agreed that CH should prepare an article to describe and promote the Board.

Action CH

**10.5 (1)**. SF to draft an affiliation document for consideration by the Board before offering it to AINDT.

Action SF

**10.5(2)** Minimum Requirements for Outside Agencies (Training Providers). The Board is to consider what competencies and questions for level 3 need to be formulated. .

Action All

**10.5 (2a)** Outside Agency Audit- JM to provide a draft document to circulate to the Board.

Action JM

**10.5 (3)** Interpretation of AS 3669 document to be prepared.

Action RQ/GS

**10.5 (5)** CH to arrange for the web site to have a hot link to the AINDT curriculum as a standard acceptable to the Board.

Action CH

**10.5 (6)** Control of Examinations document to be prepared

Action PV/CM

**10.6** Report from CASA- TR to email the report to the secretary. Letter required from the Board to CASA requesting a MOU.

Action TC/CH/TR

**10.9** New Logo – GM to prepare some designs.

Action GM

**10.11** TC to write to TR noting his concerns about NDT certification by persons other than the operator.

Action TC

**11.** Election of officials or representatives. All nominees should prepare a 50 word biography to be placed on the ballot sheet for electors to consider. CH to discuss election mechanism with Leanne Fogarty.

Action CH/All

**12.1** Conditions for the invitation of observers to Board Meetings. CH to prepare a procedure.

Action CH

**14.** Schedule of next meeting is for March 2008 - Brisbane

**15.** The Chairman thanked CASA again for hosting the Board and closed the meeting at 1650.