

Report of the National Aerospace NDT Forum Meeting – June 2008

On the 6th June 2008 the Forum for NANDTBs met in Amsterdam to continue its work. Along with Australia, other countries represented were; Luxembourg, Italy, Russia, Ireland, Holland, UK, France, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Portugal. The purpose of these meetings is to foster the development of NANDTBs in the various countries, and to harmonise policies and procedures of these Boards to facilitate mutual recognition and compliance with EASA regulations. Participation by Australia is beneficial because by considering the requirements of EASA regulations it will be better able to transition to the new Australian Regulations which will be based on the EASA model.

Issues for discussion centred around the need for a closer relationship between the Forum and the European Regulator. The Forum took the view that it was well placed to assist EASA develop and define policies which achieved the desired compliance and safety objectives, in a way that was most effective for the industry. To that end the meeting prepared a series of minor policy responses for EASA to consider. Whilst the Regulator has the discretion and authority to form its own views and policies, the input from this industry group should be most helpful to it.

It was interesting to note that a common theme in both Europe and Australia was importance of clarifying the relationship between the NANDTBs and Regulators. Legal status is also an issue in both jurisdictions. In Australia, its Board is considering a request from CASA to incorporate, which will assist CASA to recognise and deal with the Board by making it a legal entity.

There is again a difference between the NAS 410 and EN4179 standards for qualification, due to the publication of the new NAS 410 (2008) ahead of the revised EN 4179. The meeting heard from CEN members that it will be at least the end of the year before EN 4179 has



completed its public comment stage, and consequently its release will be some time after that. The Australian Standard AS3669 is based on the EN and is not expected to be reviewed until the final form of EN 4179 is known. The other issue for Europeans which is not so in Australia, is the transition of NDT technicians to EN4179 who are previously qualified under EN473. Whilst there is fundamental agreement, the approach taken does vary between countries.

The Forum's working document on harmonisation was amended to suggest that the national Regulator be an observer to the NANDTB. The Constitution was also amended. That change was to require members of the Forum to be recognised by their national Regulator. Recognition could be formal using a document, or implied by the Regulator's involvement in Board meetings.

The next meeting is in Furth, Germany in December in conjunction with a two day aerospace symposium. The organiser has offered some of the session time for a workshop on the role and functioning of the Forum. Promotional activities like this are seen as important to inform industry about the Boards.

New Logo

Above you will have noticed a new more contemporary logo for the Australian Aerospace NDT Board. Largely due to work by Gary Martin, a selection of designs was prepared and the one above selected by the Board.