

# NANDTB NEWS

This issue of NANDTB News is drawn from a recent NADCAP Newsletter, in which Phil Keown, the chair of the NDT Task Group, explains NADCAP's interpretation of the role of the Responsible Level 3 in an organisation. Those working with NAS 410 may find this useful to better understand the intent of the most recent revision of this standard in March 2008. Although NADCAP is a manufacturer and supplier based network, NAS 410 can also be used by repair and maintenance organisations.

Phil Keown – There appears to be a lot of misunderstanding surrounding the concept of “Responsible Level 3” as defined in NAS 410. The interpretation from many suppliers and primes is to have a separate individual assigned to each method, or an individual certified in all methods, identified as the Responsible Level 3. In fact, NAS 410 requires there be one individual, and only one individual, identified as the Responsible Level 3. That individual must be certified to the requirements of NAS 410 “...in **one** or more methods”. This person, to be identified in writing, is responsible for the **qualification and certification** program used by the employer.

The Responsible Level 3 is responsible for developing and implementing a program to meet the requirements of NAS 410, not for an individual NDT method. If the individual named is not a certified level 3 in all methods used by the employer, additional Level 3 **Examiners** “...may be identified and delegated in writing as necessary to provide coverage for all methods used

by the employer.” So, the Responsible Level 3 does *not* have to be certified in all of the methods used by the employer. But he/she is responsible for the qualification/certification program as it applies to all methods used by the employer.

An Examiner, as defined by NAS 410, “A Level 3 certified to [NAS 410] and designated by the Responsible Level 3 ... to administer all or part of the qualification and certification process, excluding vision examinations, in the NDT method(s) in which the Examiner is certified.”

In summary, there is one, and only one, Responsible Level 3 for each company. This individual is responsible for the overall qualification/certification program for the employer. Additional Level 3 Examiners may be utilized if the Responsible Level 3 is not certified in all methods used by the employer. The Responsible Level 3 must be a certified level 3 in accordance with NAS 410 in at least one method. Examiners shall be level 3 certified, in accordance with NAS 410, in the method for which they act as examiners.

The AIA NDT Working Group, the entity responsible for the content of NAS 410, worked hard to better define the role of the Responsible Level 3 in the recently issued Revision 3 (March 2008). Please read the paragraphs dealing with Responsible Level 3, and Examiners, to better understand the concept of each.