

Level 3 Awarded Credit Activity

Interpretation CZ NANDTB No: 6/2016

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1. Preamble

- 1.1 Since the revision of the standards NAS410:2014 and EN4179:2017, the requirements for recertification of a Level 3 personnel by the awarded credit activity were modified in Annex A and related table Table A.1.
- 1.2 In general, the system has been tightened (the number of points that can be achieved from activities) and additional requirements were added, as cited in 2 below.

2. Citation from the standard

2.1 EN 4179:2021, par. A.2 c)

Continuity in the test method shall be demonstrated.

The candidate shall provide a list of 8 (eight) verifiable Level 3 tasks in each NDT method for which recertification is sought during the 5 (five)-year period.

2.2 EN 4179:2021, par. A.2 e)

A single event shall only be used for one award credit activity during a 5 (five)-year period.

2.3 EN 4179:2021, Table A.1

Table A.1 — Level 3 awarded credit activity

Activity	Criteria	Point Allocation	Max. points per 5 (five) years	Activity	Criteria	Point Allocation	Max. points per 5 (five) years
Authoring or co-authoring technical NDT papers, presentations, or white papers	Sole Author	8	8	Obtaining an initial ^a Level 3 certificate from a recognized industry source (applicable only to initial professional certification)	credit earned		
	Co-author	4			For each test method obtained	4	4
Authoring or co-authoring for company or industry NDT specifications or standards	Each Standard/Specification	2	8	Nondestructive testing Examiner	For each qualification examination	1	6
Attending NDT technical sessions, committee or panel meetings organized by: a) National or international technical societies, associations and institutes b) Inter-company NDT teams comprised of members from several locations	1 (one) day or 1 (one) meeting	1	8	NDT related technical and/or scientific publications published either internally or externally	For each published paper	4	8
	2 (two) days	2		Documented NDT contributions to company, technical society, or industry committee projects	For each documented contribution	4	8
	3 (three) or more days	4		Documented participation in NDT-related studies, developments, or investigations	For each documented contribution	4	8
NDT instructor teaching academic courses, or courses designed to prepare students for NDT qualification	For each 8 (eight) hours of instruction	4	8	Documented continuous satisfactory performance as a Level 3	Written testament for each test method in the certification period	1	4
Participating in technical courses or seminars	For every 8 (eight) hours of documented instruction	2	8	Attend NDT equipment or trade show	For each show attended	1	4
Participating in technical courses or seminars for which academic credit is given	For actual Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or academic	Actual CEUs/credit awarded	8	Conduct external NDT audits	For each external audit conducted	2	6
Development of new NDT processes, facilities, or systems				Submitting and/or obtaining a patent for an NDT product or process	Sole inventor	8	8
					Co-inventor	4	

^a This does not apply to professional recertification.

3. Terminology

3.1 Task

An individual activity from the activity list in the Table A.1 for which Level 3 certification is required. Example of such activity is an approval of an NDT Technique Instruction or NDT procedure, or one Examiner job for one qualification examination.

3.2 Level 3 duty to process and/or (decide on) acceptance or rejection of products

Level 3 duty to perform tasks relevant to testing of products equivalent to the same duty of the personnel Level 2.

3.3 Hands-on practical examination

Supplemental part of the Level 3 examination equivalent in content and extent to the practical part of the Level 2 examination, that has to be performed if the Level 3 duty includes processing and/or acceptance or rejection of products.

3.4 Claimed points

Points (backed by documentation) that candidate submits for assessment (being acknowledged to award credit).

3.5 Acknowledged points

Those Claimed points that the Responsible Level 3 approved as acceptable for the awarded credit.

3.6 Awarded credit

Acceptance of recertification by awarded credit activity due to satisfying sufficient amount of acknowledged points (24 or more per method) and tasks (8 or more), in addition to all other criteria in the standard, Employer's Written Practice and this Interpretation.

4. Justification

4.1 Personnel is fully proficient for the particular certification level only if it is able to perform all its duties defined by given certification level (as described in the Written Practice). The confirmation of continued proficiency is the valid certificate.

4.1.1 The certificate validity is dependent on its expiry as well as satisfying other criteria as e.g. visual acuity and annual proficiency review (see CZ NANDTB interpretation No. 1/2016).

4.2 Personnel's proficiency may change over time. Deterioration may be observed in all as well as in only selected duties.

4.3 Purpose of recertification examination is to assess the proficiency in periodic manner. This assessment should confirm ongoing proficiency by similar means as in the initial certification.

4.4 Awarded credit activity is an alternative approach for recertification examination and should seek the same target, i.e. to verify ongoing full (not limited) proficiency relevant to the extent of duties defined for particular Level by Employer's Written Practice.

4.5 Currently established awarded credit activity allows simpler assessment of recertification especially for those Level 3 that are not regularly involved in NDT Level 2 tasks, but are active on the process level. In order to verify ongoing proficiency the awarded credit activity approach needs to verify deep process involvement in the given method to justify exception from the recertification examination, otherwise this alternative approach would be strictly simpler and used exclusively.

4.6 Annex A of EN4179:2021 and requirements as per 2.1 and 2.2 above provide high variability of outcomes, depending on quality of implemented awarded credit assessment process by the Employer.

4.7 This Interpretation aims to set a benchmark for correct awarded credit activity assessment.

5. Interpretation of CZ NANDTB

- 5.1 The candidate in this process claims points for tasks to be acknowledged by the Responsible Level 3. Responsible Level 3 decides on acknowledgement of claimed points.
 - 5.1.1 Responsible Level 3 has no obligation to acknowledge any of the points or tasks, especially, but not exclusively: if any of the individual claims is not verifiable (documented), if the individual claim is not relevant, the number of claimed tasks exceeded allowed maximum, or the claimed task is claimed in other method.
 - 5.1.2 Responsible Level 3 may acknowledge all or only some claimed points.
 - 5.1.3 As long as the full requirements are met, no matter how much points were not acknowledged, the Responsible Level 3 must award the credit for the candidate (it means that if at least 24 points and 8 tasks are acknowledged, it doesn't matter how much more weren't acknowledged).
- 5.2 In order to satisfy the requirement in 2.1 and 2.2 above, the candidate for recertification shall provide a list of claimed performed tasks, which consist of the activities as per Table A.1, that are verifiable and consist of at least 8 different tasks from 8 different events.
 - 5.2.1 Individual types of activities may be repeated up to the number of times allowable by Table A.1.
 - 5.2.2 If the sufficient amount of points (24 points) is collected by lower number of tasks, the candidate has to claim additional points from other tasks. In such case it may happen that the candidate will need to claim more points in order to satisfy the criteria of 2.1. The same applies for tasks.
 - 5.2.3 The candidate provides records of each of the tasks for verification.

Tab. 5.1 Example scoring of claimed points for tasks per types of activities. Incorrect utilization is marked red.

Candidate	Activity	Claimable points / activity	Number of real cases in 5-years	Claimed points	Claimed activities	Acknowledged points	Acknowledged tasks	Awarded credit (Y/N)
A	Authoring technical NDT papers	8	3	24 ⁸	3 ¹	8	1	N
B	Authoring technical NDT papers	8	3	8	1	24	5	N
	Development of new NDT processes, facilities, systems	4	2	8	2			
	Documented NDT contributions to company	4	2	8	2			
C	Authoring technical NDT papers	8	3	8	1	27	8	Y
	Participating in technical courses or seminars	2	4	8	2			
	Documented NDT contributions to company	4	2	8	2			
	Documented continuous satisfactory performance as a Level 3	1	5	3	3			
D	Authoring technical NDT papers	8	3	8	1	32	8	Y
	Submitting and/or obtaining a patent	8	1	8	1			
	Documented NDT contributions to company	4	2	8	2			
	Documented participation in NDT-related study	4	1	4	1			
	Attending NDT equipment or trade show	1	1	1	1			
	NDT related technical and/or scientific publications	4	1	4	1			
Conduct external NDT audits	2	1	2	1				
E	Attend NDT equipment or trade shows	1	12	4	4	24	18	Y
	Documented continuous satisfactory performance as a Level 3	1	5	4	4			
	Nondestructive testing Examiner	1	6	6	6			
	Conduct external NDT audits	2	3	6	3			
	Co-authoring technical NDT paper	4	1	4	1			
F	Authoring and co-authoring technical NDT papers	8	3	24 ⁸	3 ¹	27	8	Y
	Participating in technical courses or seminars	2	4	8	2			
	Documented NDT contributions to company	4	2	8	2			
	Documented continuous satisfactory performance as a Level 3	1	5	3	3			
	Un-documented attendance of NDT equipment or trade show	1	1	4 ⁰	4 ⁰			

- 5.3 Tasks are considered verifiable, if the provided record clearly identifies the activity and the event (so it cannot be claimed repeatedly and thus breaching the requirement 2.2) and demonstrates participation of the candidate on the given task.
- 5.3.1 Proofs may include e.g. attendance lists from trainings and seminars with candidates attendance signature, conference namecards, copies of the officially published papers (front page is satisfactory) and/or internal documents and specifications, corrected exam result checklists signed by the examiner candidate, etc.
- 5.4 Tasks needs to be specific to the method in which the recertification is sought. It is not possible to claim points for tasks in other methods or transfer points between methods, except 5.4.2.
- 5.4.1 Points for NDT events, NDT examiners, external audits, etc. can be obtained from topics directly from the aviation sector (EN 4179 / NAS 410) as well as similar comparable industries and their respective qualification systems (SNT-TC-1A, EN ISO 9712), or others), if its in relevant method.
- 5.4.2 Documented continuous satisfactory performance as Level 3 can be claimed for each method only as 1 point (e.g. 3 points for 3 methods). The Level 3 cannot claim more than 1 point per method e.g. for individual years in the certification cycle.
- 5.5 Each individual task can only be recognized once to receive points during a five-year period. If this task is acknowledged in one NDT method, it cannot be acknowledged for another NDT method.
- 5.5.1 For example, one conference (1 event) may be claimed either for method A or method B, but not for both methods, no matter whether the conference topic covers both methods.
- 5.5.2 Attending conference and Authoring or co-authoring technical paper presented on the same conference may be claimed as 2 tasks with their respective points (2 independent events).
- 5.5.3 Attending conference and Attending technical or trade show which is a part of the same conference can be claimed only as 1 task with its respective points (1 event). The candidate can choose which of the two he claims (usually with respect to allowable maximum of claims for particular activity given by Table A.1).
- 5.6 When the candidate is seeking recertification for more than one NDT method (e.g. certificates for more than one method expire in the same period), he/she has to satisfy the above-stated criteria for each method individually (i.e. gain at least 24 points by at least 8 verifiable tasks for each individual method).
- 5.6.1 If candidate is not able to satisfy the requirements for awarded credit activity only for selected methods, he may be recertified by awarded credit activity in those methods where requirement may be satisfied and be recertified by recertification examination in the rest.
- 5.6.2 The candidate cannot be recertified in multiple methods by satisfying only cumulative amount of points and verifiable tasks of those methods. For example, if the candidate is able to claim 37 points in PT and only 12 points in UT, the candidate cannot be recertified in both methods by satisfying cumulative requirements (48 points). In this case he/she can be recertified in UT only.
- 5.7 If the candidate is not able to satisfy the requirements for awarded credit activity in the given method, he/she has to be recertified by regular recertification examination or lose certification.
- 5.8 When the Employer's Written Practice defines Level 3 duties to include processing and/or acceptance or rejection of products, the Level 3 candidate shall pass an additional Level 2 hands-on examination in addition to the means of recertification selected.
- 5.8.1 If the Level 3 candidate is recertified in the given method by recertification examination, it shall include both Level 3 recertification examination and practical Level 2 examination.
- 5.8.2 If the Level 3 candidate is recertified in the given method by awarded credit activity, the assessment shall be supplemented by practical Level 2 examination.
- 5.8.3 Hands-on practical examination is a part of the recertification process. Failure in this examination represents failure in recertification altogether. The candidate which failed in the hands-on examination cannot claim limited certification (without authority to processing and/or acceptance or rejection of products), even if the Written Practice would allow both types of the Level 3s.