

Content of a Certificate

Interpretation No. 1/2025

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Released: January 16, 2025, Zbynek Zavadil, CZ NANDTB Secretary

1. Preamble

- 1.1 Certificate acc. to EN 4179 / NAS 410 is the primary document used to demonstrate competencies of the NDT personnel. This certificate should provide unambiguous information on the content, extent and limitations in competence of the certified individual.
- 1.2 Recommended content of the certificate should be provided by a local NANDTB per EN4179:2021 standard.

2. Reference documents

- 2.1 **EN 4179:2021** – Aerospace series – Qualification and approval of personnel for nondestructive testing
- 2.2 **SNT-TC-1A:2024** – Personnel Qualification and Certification in Non-Destructive Testing

3. Citation from the standard

3.1 **EN 4179:2021, para. 1.1**

... Except when otherwise specified in the written practice, certification in accordance with this document includes operating approval.

3.2 **EN4179:2021, para. 3.2 – certification**

Written statement by an employer that an individual has met the applicable requirements of this document.

3.3 **EN4179:2021, para. 3.40 – written practice**

Document that describes an employer's requirements and methodology for controlling and administering the NDT personnel qualification and certification process.

3.4 **EN4179:2021, para. 4.3.1**

d) The employer is solely responsible for the certification of its employees and cannot certify for another employer.

3.5 **EN4179:2021, para. 4.3.2**

a) The employer shall identify in writing a "Responsible Level 3 person" to act on its behalf in matters regarding the NDT qualification and certification process.

...

d) The Responsible Level 3 person may be an outside agency but in this case he/she can only qualify personnel, as only the employer can certify personnel.

...

f) The Responsible Level 3 person shall be responsible for implementation of this document and the overall administration of the qualification and certification program.

3.6 EN4179:2021, para. 7.1.5.5

- d) When the candidate's duties will include processing and/or acceptance or rejection of products, proficiency in performing such tasks shall be demonstrated by a hands-on practical examination equivalent to Level 2 in accordance with 7.1.5.4.

3.7 EN4179:2021, para. C.2.10

Where an NANDTB is used, the specific and practical examinations may cover a wider scope that does not include all the employer's requirements. Where a wider scope is used by the NANDTB the employer is responsible for administering supplemental specific and practical examinations, which are representative of the employer's processes. These supplemental examinations shall be under the control of an employer or NANDTB when required by the National Aviation Authority.

4. Terminology**4.1 Date of examination (Examination date)**

A specific date at which an examination is undertaken by an examinee (if examination took more days, it shall be the last day).

Note: This date does not represent the evaluation date of that examination or date of issue of an Examination report.

4.2 Date of issue (Issue date)

A specific date at which a certificate was issued.

Note: This date may be before or after start of certificate's validity.

4.3 Date of validity (Valid from)

A specific date from which the given certification (i.e. for particular combination of method / level / technique and limitations) is valid. When Valid from is not listed, the document is deemed valid from the Date of issue.

4.4 Date of expiry (Expiry date)

A specific date when validity of a certificate ends. Where an Anniversary month clause is used, the Date of expiry is the last day of a particular month, otherwise it's the specific date written.

5. Justification

- 5.1 Certificate is a primary document used to demonstrate competencies of NDT personnel, often used alone, or only with currently valid visual acuity test as a means of verification of competence.
- 5.2 Certificate informs an interested party about certifying authority, content and extent of certification (method, level, technique(s)), its basis (qualification system and subsequent requirements) and period and conditions of validity (issuance, expiry, limitations).
- 5.3 Certificates acc. to EN 4179 / NAS 410 are issued by the Employer on a template of the Employer and acc. to Employer's Written Practice (usually via its representative and the Responsible Level 3).
- 5.4 Numerous cases when candidates for recertification submit certificates with errors are known, e.g.:
- 5.4.1 issued by third organization, which is forbidden by the EN 4179 / NAS 410 (see para. 3.4);
 - 5.4.2 acc. to multiple qualification systems, that are unrelated mutually and to certification purpose;
 - 5.4.3 without reference to Employer's Written Practice, or its valid revision at the time of certification;
 - 5.4.4 with no traceable extent of techniques;
 - 5.4.5 with ambiguous date of issue or validity;
 - 5.4.6 with ambiguous or excessively long date of expiry;
 - 5.4.7 signed by only non-relevant personnel (ASNT Level 3, Quality manager, third party personnel that is not appointed as the Responsible Level 3)

- 5.5 Furthermore, when Level 3's duties does include processing and/or accepting and rejecting products, the requirement 3.6d) shall be met. Yet Outside Agency has to often rely on the honesty and sufficient comprehension of the requirements by the Employer and the examined individual. He / she indicates upfront the necessity to perform hands-on practical during (re)certification examination as there often isn't any evidence whether the individual duties include processing and / or accepting and rejecting products other than existing (or non-existing) inspection reports. (Not even Written Practices often address this topic sufficiently).
- 5.6 Certification is not only signing a document, it's a whole process that should be clearly established within the Employer. This process requires verification that all certification criteria (listed in Employer's Written Practice) are met with a written testimony by the Responsible Level 3, who is responsible for the qualification and certification process – see 3.5f)), and act of certificate issuance is only the final step, that is done by the certifying authority within the Employer.
- 5.7 This interpretation aims to provide list of information that has to be accessible on the certificate, or fully traceable from the certificate, including recommended appropriate wording and its reference to the EN 4179 / NAS 410 qualification standard.

6. Interpretation of CZ NANDTB

General

- 6.1 Certificate shall be issued officially by the Employer, on a company template document that is traceable from the Employer's Written Practice.
- 6.1.1 Certificate may be issued for each method individually or for all methods together, oriented vertically or horizontally, one-sided or double-sided.
- 6.1.2 Certificate of examination issued internally or by an Outside Agency is never a certificate of qualification in compliance with para. 3.2.
- 6.1.3 In order to avoid ambiguity, it is highly recommended that the document(s) listing the result of:
- 6.1.3.1. examination is called otherwise than a certificate (of examination), e.g. "Examination report".
- 6.1.3.2. credit assessment is called otherwise than a certificate (of credit assessment), e.g. "Credit assessment report".

Certifying Authority

- 6.2 Employer is the only Certifying Authority. It shall delegate individual(s) that approve(s) issuance of a certificate (of qualification).
- 6.3 Certificate shall be signed by the Responsible Level 3 of the Employer (no matter if internal or external).
- 6.3.1 By signing the certificate, the Responsible Level 3 does not certify the individual, but confirms that all certification criteria are met. Certificate is always issued by the Employer as a legal entity.
- 6.3.2 Where an external Responsible Level 3 (from an Outside Agency) is used, certificates are to be in compliance with EN 4179 / NAS 410 (see para. 3.5d) when para. 6.1 is met AND:
- 6.3.2.1. EITHER there is another co-signing individual as per 6.2;
- 6.3.2.2. OR the Responsible Level 3 is delegated to issue certificates acc. to para. 6.2.
- 6.3.3 Signatures of other employees of the Employer may be added to the certificate as appropriate, but shall never include signatures of external staff except 6.3.2.

Certification Requirements

- 6.4 Certificate shall enlist only the qualification standard(s) acc. to which the individual is being certified by given certificate.
- 6.4.1 For the purpose of this document, that are exclusively EN 4179, NAS 410 or both, but no other.
- 6.4.2 If qualification process acc. to EN4179 / NAS410 was used to partially satisfy also one or more other qualification standards (e.g. via accepted general part of training or examination), this information shall be transferred to affiliated documents of those certificates and shall not be included in the certificate acc. to EN4179 / NAS410 to avoid misleading interpretations.
- 6.5 Certificate shall enlist the document designation of the Written Practice of the Employer including the revision in accordance to which the qualification was performed.
- 6.5.1 Revision of the document shall be included in order to provide full traceability to qualification and certification criteria satisfied at the time of certification.
- 6.5.2 Certificate issued by an NANDTB that is not according to the Employer's Written Practice are deemed to be meeting the para. 3.7 and the Employer is responsible for administering supplemental specific and practical examinations and issue its own certificate.
- 6.5.3 Certificate issued by an NANDTB shall never be representing operating approval and the requirement 6.5.2 has to be met including consequent issuance of Employer's certificate.

Certified Individual

- 6.6 Certificate shall include full legal name of the certified individual in Latin alphabet (where appropriate, nationally used alphabet or characters may be included too) and an unique personal identifier.
- 6.6.1 Name should be in accordance to the individual's name as written in the official passport document to avoid ambiguity.
- 6.6.2 Date of birth and / or other personal identifiers (social security number, employee ID within the Employer etc.) may be added as appropriate.
- 6.6.3 In order to avoid ambiguity and prevent various means of misconduct, it is recommended that the certificate is also co-signed by the certified individual, or its acceptance is traceable (in another document, report etc.).

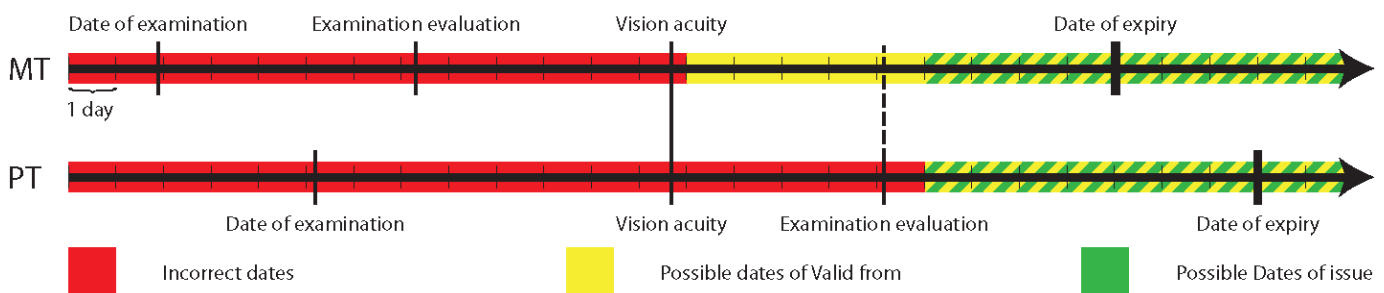
Extent of Certification

- 6.7 Certificate shall include method(s), level(s) and technique(s) including limitations to which the individual is certified.
- 6.7.1 Method(s), level(s) and technique(s) listed has to be in accordance with those implemented in the Employer's Written Practice in the revision stated as per 6.5.
- 6.7.2 It is recommended to avoid ambiguous statements as "all techniques". If such terms are being used, this always relates only to the techniques established in the referenced revision of the Written Practice. In such case, a clear list of those established techniques at the time of certification shall be available for review.

Validity of the Certificate

- 6.8 Certificate shall include unambiguously both Date of issue and Date of expiry.
- 6.8.1 Date of issue shall be a specific calendar day / month / year (e.g. January 7, 2025).
- 6.8.2 Date of expiry shall be a specific calendar day / month / year, or where anniversary month of certification is used for the expiry, at least month / year (e.g. 10/2026). If a specific day is written at the Date of expiry, the certificate expires at that specific day, not at the anniversary month.

- 6.8.3 Date of issue shall be any date after which all the certification criteria for all methods listed on the certificate are met.
- 6.8.4 Date of expiry shall not be later than 5 years from the anniversary month of the Date of examination.
- 6.8.5 In case of recertification, the Date of expiry of the new certificate may be extended up to 5 years from the anniversary month of the Date of expiry of the original certificate, provided the Date of examination was less than 3 months before the original certificate's Date of expiry.
- 6.8.6 When recertification examinations are undertaken (i.e. the Date of examination is) earlier than 3 months before the Date of expiry anniversary month of the currently valid certificate, the Date of expiry of the newly issued certificate shall be in compliance with 6.8.4.
- 6.8.7 Where relevant, a certificate may also include a Date of validity (Valid from), for example when:
- 6.8.7.1. all recertification criteria are met before the expiry of the initial certificate;
- 6.8.7.2. where due to ONLY administrative reasons the certificate wasn't issued consequently to the all the recertification criteria were met;
- 6.8.7.3. when original certificate expired, or where more methods are listed on a certificate.
- 6.9 Where Date of validity is being used, it shall be any date after which the certification criteria for a particular method listed on the certificate are met.
- 6.9.1 Date of validity may be both, either before or after the Date of issue of the certificate.



Limitations to Certification

- 6.10 For all Level 3 personnel the certificate should include information if the individual's duties include processing and / or acceptance and rejection of products as per 3.6d).
- 6.10.1 In order to ensure safety (so incompetent personnel is not performing inspections), where no specific information is provided, it shall be assumed that the individual's duties DOES NOT include processing and / or accepting and rejecting products and shall not be allowed by the Employer to do so.
- 6.11 Any other existing limitations to the certification shall be listed unambiguously.

Arbitrary Information

- 6.12 Certificate shall not bear any arbitrary information, as Examiner's signature, address to Outside Agency etc. that may cause misinterpretations who is the Employer as the certifying authority, the certified individual and the Responsible Level 3.

7. Example Certificate Structure

{LEGAL COMPANY LOGO} 6.1

{LEGAL COMPANY NAME}

NDT CERTIFICATE

6.4

This is to certify that the individual named below has successfully completed education, experience, training, on-the-job training, and examination requirements in accordance with the EN 4179:{EN4179 REVISION YEAR} / NAS 410:{NAS410 REVISION YEAR} qualification standard and the provisions of {LEGAL COMPANY NAME} Written Practice for Qualification and Certification of NDT personnel {WRITTEN PRACTICE IDENTIFICATION}, rev. {WRITTEN PRACTICE REVISION NUMBER}.

6.5

{FULL LEGAL NAME OF INDIVIDUAL}

6.5.1

Date of birth: {DATE OF BIRTH}

6.6

Is hereby certified to perform the following Non-Destructive Testing method(s), and technique(s) at the level:

6.7

6.11

6.8.7

6.8; 6.8.2; 6.8.4

Method	Level	Technique(s)	Limitations (if any)	Valid From	Date of Expiry
{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}
{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}	{Insert}

This individual's duties include processing and / or acceptance and rejection of products: **{YES/NO}**

Date of Issue: {DATE OF ISSUE} 6.8; 6.8.1 6.10

6.2; 6.3.3

6.3

6.6.3

{LEGAL COMPANY NAME} Certifying Authority	{LEGAL COMPANY NAME} Responsible Level 3	Certified Individual
Signature: _____ Print Name: {PRINT FULL NAME}	Signature: _____ Print Name: {PRINT FULL NAME}	Signature: _____ Print Name: {PRINT FULL NAME}

Figure 2 – Recommended structure of a certificate.

8. Example Errors on a Certificate

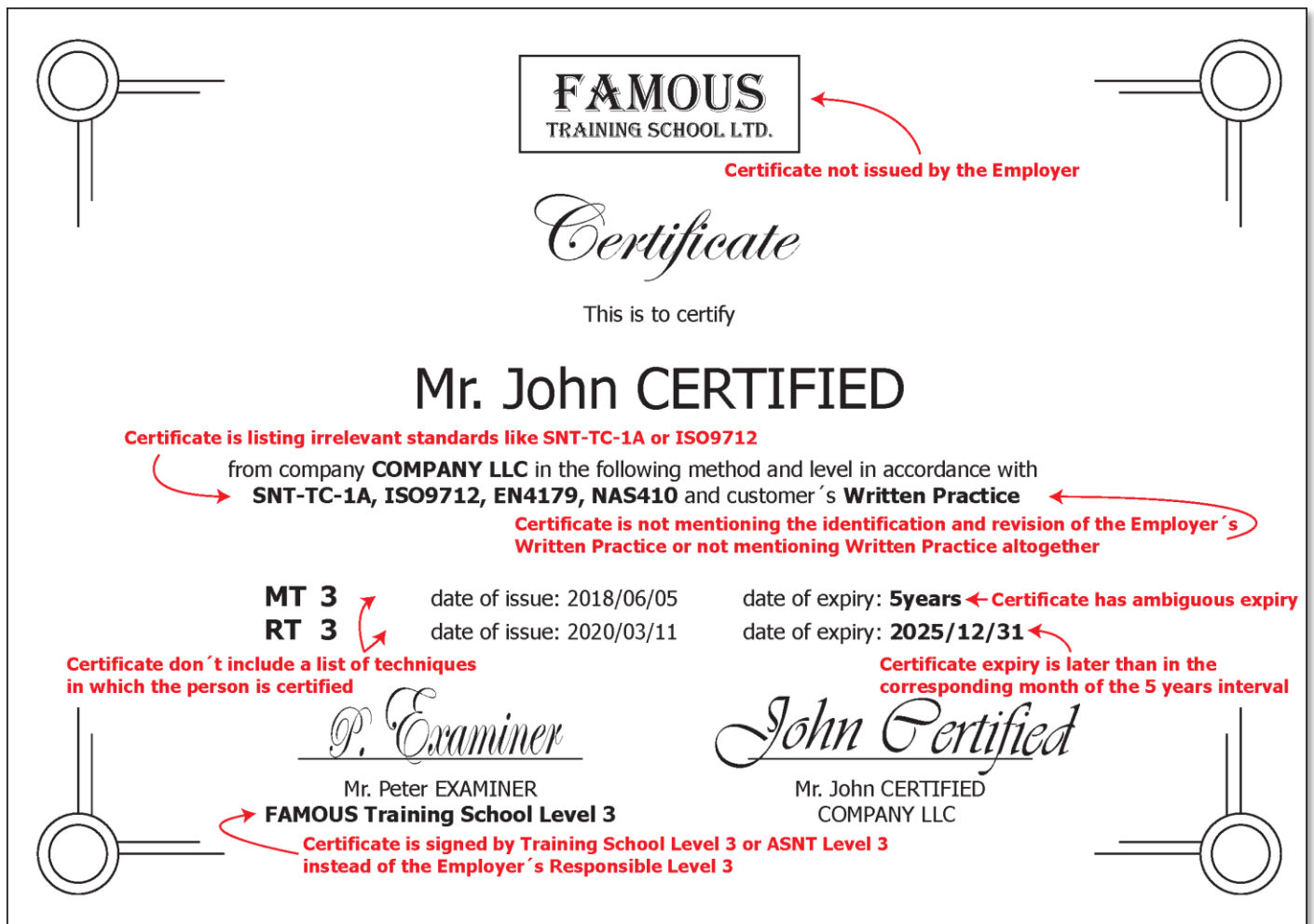


Figure 3 – Examples of numerous errors on a certificate (see para 5.4).