

	MEENA INTERNATIONAL Training & Certification Division General Requirements for	No.	SD-01
		Revision No.	7
		Date	07/03/2024
Qualification & IPC Certification of NDT Personnel to BS EN ISO-9712:2022			

Meena International

IPC General Requirements

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Revision History:

Revision No.	Date	Pages	Revision Details
1	07/11/2017	All	IAS Initial Assessment Comments Addressed
2	26/12/2017	All	General Review and updating
3	05/05/2019	All	General Review and Migration Procedure Added
4	02/03/2020	All	2020 IAS Audit comments addressed
5	01/03/2023	All	<i>Updated to Meet BS-EN-ISO 9712:2022 Edition</i>
6	01/02/2024	All	<i>General review to check compliance to ISO-9712-2022</i>

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Introduction:

The IPC Scheme is an international programme for the certification of competence of non-destructive testing personnel which satisfies the requirements of a number of Global Technical standards.

The Council of Meena International constitutes a Certification Management Committee (CMC) and delegates to the CMC the responsibility for maintaining a management overview of the operations of its Certification Services Division. Membership of boards and committees is open to the participation of individuals and organisations. Further information on the work of committees and committee membership is available from The Certification Services Division of Meena International.

The CMC fulfils the requirement for a Scheme Committee in terms of ISO/IEC 17024 (Personnel Certification) and an Impartiality Committee in terms of ISO/IEC 17021 (Management Systems Certification).

There is a wide range of qualification examinations available within the Scheme, covering various NDT methods and techniques. Meena International Conduct such examinations at the main test centre in Chennai and other test centres and all such examinations are directly supervised by MEENA. *The examinations are conducted either in person or online directly administered by Meena International.*

This document, will be implemented with effect from *1st April 2023*, sets out the general requirements and procedures common to all central parts of the scheme. Supplementary appendices are published covering specific examinations applicable to various industry and product sectors.

The following are the Sectors covered as defined in Annexure-A to ISO 9712:2021:

Product Sectors:

- a) *Castings (c) (Ferrous and nonferrous materials)*
- b) *Forgings (f) (All types of forgings: ferrous and nonferrous materials)*
- c) *Welds (w) (All types of welds, including ferrous and nonferrous materials)*
- d) *Tubes & Pipes: (t) (Seamless, welded, ferrous and nonferrous material)*
- e) *Wrought Products (wp) except forgings (i.e., plates, bars, rods)*

Industrial Sectors:

- a) *Manufacturing (m)*
- b) *Pre-and In-service Inspection (Multi-Sector) (Including Manufacturing Sector)*

This series of documents is designed to provide comprehensive information for users of the IPC Scheme. The complete list of published IPC documents is detailed in publication reference Master List. Selected IPC documents are also available for download from the Institute's web site at www.meenainternational.com.

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Copies of IPC documents are available free of charge from MEENA Certification Services Division at Plot No. 7, First Cross Street, VGN Royal Enclave, Paruthipattu, Chennai - 600 071, Tamil Nadu, India.

Organisations requiring always to be in possession of the most up to date IPC documents may register with the "IPC Update Scheme" which, for a small annual fee, assures that they automatically receive all new or revised IPC documents in electronic form by email. Meena International will scrutinise the request for such services carefully before enrolling any one for such automatic update services.

It is intended, through publication of these documents, to provide IPC candidates and certificate holders with all relevant information. However, if further information or advice is required on any certification matter, please contact the Certification Services Division of MEENA on telephone number +91 [9600124561](tel:9600124561), or email questions to admin@meenainternational.com.

Foreword:

Pass Level Score:

From the date of implementation of IPC, the pass grade of an IPC exam will be as required by ISO 9712: 2012 edition *and 2021 edition* which requires a straight 70% pass on each examination part, with no overall average. This will keep IPC Scheme in line with all other certification bodies operating an ISO 9712 scheme. If an employer requires an aggregate score of more than 70%, they may use the result notifications, *which will be provided on specific request* indicating the score achieved in every part.

1. Scope:

1.1. This document describes a system for the qualification and independent centralised certification of Non-destructive Testing (NDT) Personnel.

1.2. Specific details of the certification available at each level in the various NDT methods and industry *and product* sectors are contained in the appropriate supplementary / Annexure to this document. A list of the current supplementary Annexures is listed in the Master List and copies distributed all concerned parties whenever revised

1.3. This document incorporates provisions from other IPC publications, all of which are available from Meena International, Plot No. 7, First Cross Street, VGN Royal Enclave, Paruthipattu, Chennai - 600 071, Tamil Nadu, India., or from www.meenainternational.com, and which are listed below under "References".

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List of Certification provided by Meena International (PCB-122):

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>NDT Method</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Sector</i>
1.	Ultrasonic Testing (UT) – Plates, Pipes, Construction “T” Joints, Nodes and Nozzles	1, 2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
2.	Magnetic Particle Testing (MT)	1, 2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
3.	Penetrant Testing (PT)	1, 2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
4.	Visual Testing (VT)	1, 2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
5.	Radiographic Film Interpretation (RTFI)	2	Welds and Castings (Light and Dense Metals)
6.	Radiography Testing (RT)	1, 2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
7.	Basic Radiation Safety (BRS)	1	N/A
8.	Radiation Protection Supervisor	2	N/A
9.	Ultrasonic Testing – Time of Flight Diffraction (ToFD)	1, 2 & 3	Welds
10.	Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT) – Data Interpretation	2	Welds
11.	Time of Flight Diffraction (ToFD) – Data Interpretation	2	Welds
12.	Total Focusing Method – Full Matrix Capture Method (TFM/FMC)	2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
13.	Welding Inspection (WI)	1, 2 & 3	Level-1: Associate Welding Inspector Level-2: Welding Inspector Level-3: Senior Welding Inspector
14.	Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT)	1, 2 & 3	Welds, Castings and Forgings
15.	Ultrasonic Testing – Time of Flight Diffraction (ToFD)	1, 2 & 3	Welds
16.	Eddy Current Testing (ECT)	1, 2 & 3	Surface Inspection (Welds) & Tubes Inspection (Wrought Products)

2. References

ISO/IEC17024:2012, Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification systems of persons

CEN/TR 14748, Non-destructive testing — Methodology for qualification of non-destructive tests

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ISO/TS 22809, Non-destructive testing — Discontinuities in specimens for use in qualification examinations

CEN ISO/TR 25107: Non-destructive testing – Guidelines for NDT training syllabuses (ISO/TR 25107:2006)

PD CEN ISO/TS 25108: 2018: Non-destructive testing – Guidelines for NDT personnel training organisations.

BS EN ISO 9712:2022: Non-destructive testing - Qualification and certification of *NDT* personnel

(This document is prepared in such a way that in case of any conflict between the requirements of this standard concerning NDT Personnel Qualification and Certification, the IPC Scheme is designed to meet or exceed the ISO 9712:2012 criterion unless otherwise clearly specified in Block Letters.)

2.1. Other IPC documents referenced in this:

Master List of IPC Documents - Issue status

Form No.26 Exam Application along with Log of pre-certification experience

Form No. 32 Vision Requirements

Form No. 29 Fresher Application form certification, experience gained post examination (including log of post-certification experience).

Form No. 34a Renewal application for IPC Levels 1 & 2 certificates.

Form No. 34b Renewal application for IPC Level 3 certificates.

Form No. 33 Complaints and appeals

Form No.35 Marking and grading IPC practical examinations.

Form No. 37 Code of Ethics for IPC certificate Holders

Form No. 38 Level-2 Instruction writing answer sheet with details.

3. Terms and Definitions:

The following are definitions for understanding and applying the requirements of this document:

3.1. Applicant

Person who has submitted an application to be admitted into the certification process (3.8)

3.2. Authorized qualification body

Body, independent of the employer (3.11), authorized by the certification body (3.6) to prepare and administer examinations (3.12)

3.3. Basic examination element

Written examination (3.12), at Level 3, which demonstrates the candidate's (3.4) knowledge of the materials science and process technology and types of discontinuities, the specific qualification (3.33) and certification system, and the basic principles of NDT methods (3.25) as required for Level 2

Note 1 to entry: For an explanation of the three levels of qualification, see Clause 6. Note 2 to entry: The qualification and certification system is specified in this document.

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3.4. Candidate

Applicant (3.1) who has fulfilled specified prerequisites and has been admitted to the certification process (3.8)

3.5. Certificate

Document in the form of a letter, card or other medium (e.g. Digital certificate), issued by a certification body (3.6) under the provisions of this document, indicating that the named person has fulfilled the certification requirements (3.9)

3.6. Certification body

Body that administers procedures for certification according to specified requirements

3.7. Certification cycle

Maximum period of time permitted from the date of certification to the date of recertification (3.34) inclusive of the renewal (3.36) period

3.8. Certification process

Activities by which a certification body (3.6) determines that a person fulfils certification requirements (3.9), including application, assessment, decision on certification, renewal (3.36), recertification (3.34) and use of certificates (3.5) and logos/marks

3.9. Certification requirements

Set of specified requirements, including requirements of the scheme to be fulfilled in order to establish or maintain certification

3.10. Competence

Ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve intended results

3.11. Employer

Legal entity by whom the candidate (3.4) is employed

Note 1 to entry: A candidate may be self-employed.

3.12. Examination

Mechanism that is part of the assessment which measures a candidate's (3.4) competence (3.10) by one or more means

3.13. Examination centre

Centre approved by the certification body (3.6) where examinations (3.12) are carried out

3.14. Examination element

Component of an examination (3.12)

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3.15. Examiner

Person competent to conduct and score an examination (3.12), where the examination requires professional judgement

3.16. General examination element

Written examination (3.12), at Level 1 or Level 2, concerned with the principles of an NDT method (3.25)

3.17. Higher education

Formal learning that occurs after completion of secondary education in the field of engineering or science

3.18. Industrial experience

Work activities (3.46) performed under supervision (3.45), in the NDT method (3.25) in the sector (3.37) concerned, needed to acquire the skill and knowledge to fulfil the provisions of qualification (3.33)

3.19. Invigilator

Proctor / Test administrator: Person authorized by the Certification Body (3.6) who supervises an examination (3.12), but does not evaluate the competence (3.10) of the candidate (3.4)

3.20. Job-specific training

Training, provided by the employer (3.11) (or their agent) to the certificate (3.5) holder in aspects of non-destructive testing specific to the employer's products, NDT equipment, NDT procedures (3.27), and applicable codes, standards, specifications (3.40) and procedures, leading to the award of operating authorizations (3.30)

3.21. Main method examination element

Written examination (3.12), at Level 3, which demonstrates the candidate's (3.4) general and specific knowledge, and the ability to write NDT procedures (3.27) for the NDT method (3.25) as applied in the industrial or product sector(s) (3.37) for which certification is sought

3.22. Multiple choice examination question

Wording of a question giving rise to potential replies, only one of which is correct, the remaining being incorrect or incomplete

3.23. NDT instruction

Written description of the precise steps to be followed in testing to an established standard, code,

Specification (3.40) or NDT procedure (3.27)

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3.24. **NDT media**

Testing products used to create visible indications caused by imperfections or flaws

EXAMPLE Magnetic powder, contrast aid paints, colour contrast penetrant, developer.

3.25. **NDT method**

Discipline applying a physical principle in non-destructive testing

EXAMPLE Ultrasonic testing.

3.26. **NDT personnel**

Personnel who perform non-destructive testing

3.27. **NDT procedure**

Written description of all essential parameters and precautions to be applied when non-destructively testing products in accordance with standard(s), code(s) or specification(s) (3.40)

3.28. **NDT technique**

Specific way of utilizing an NDT method (3.25)

3.29. **NDT training**

Process of instruction in theory and practice in the NDT method (3.25) in which certification is sought, which takes the form of training courses to a syllabus approved by the certification body (3.6)

3.30. **Operating authorization**

Written statement issued by the employer (3.11), based upon the scope of certification, authorizing the individual to carry out specified tasks

Note 1 to entry: Such authorization can be dependent on the provision of job-specific training (3.20).

3.31. **Practical examination element**

Assessment of practical skills, in which the candidate (3.4) demonstrates familiarity with, and the ability to perform, the test

3.32. **Psychometric process**

Statistical process to verify examinations (3.12) are fair, reliable and discriminate between a competent and non-competent individual

3.33. **Qualification**

Demonstrated education, training, and work experience

3.34. **Recertification**

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Process for revalidation of a certificate (3.5) by examination (3.12) or by otherwise satisfying the

Certification body (3.6) that the published criteria for recertification have been met

3.35. Referee

Individual that attests the validity of the candidate's (3.4) industrial experience (3.18)

3.36. Renewal

Process for revalidation of a certification at any time up to five years after success in an initial, supplementary or recertification (3.34) examination (3.12)

3.37. Sector

Section of industry or technology where specialized NDT practices are used, requiring specific product- related knowledge, skill, equipment or training

Note 1 to entry: A sector can be interpreted to mean a product (welded products, castings) or an industry (aerospace, in-service testing). See [Annex A](#).

3.38. Significant interruption

Absence or change of work activity (3.46) which prevents the certified individual from practising the duties corresponding to the level in the method and the sector(s) (3.37) within the certified scope, for either a continuous period in excess of one year, or two or more periods for a total time exceeding two years

Note 1 to entry: Legal holidays or periods of sickness or training courses of less than 30 days are not taken into account when calculating the interruption.

3.39. Specific examination element

Written examination (3.12), at Level 1 or Level 2, concerned with testing techniques applied in a particular sector(s) (3.37), including knowledge of the product(s) tested and of codes, standards, specifications (3.40), procedures and acceptance criteria

3.40. Specification

Document stating requirements

3.41. Specimen

Sample used in practical examinations (3.12), possibly including radiographs and data sets, which is representative of products typically tested in the applicable sector (3.37)

Note 1 to entry: A specimen can include more than one area or volume to be tested.

3.42. Specimen master report

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Model answer, indicating the optimum result for a practical examination (3.12) given a specified set of conditions (equipment type, settings, technique, specimen (3.41), etc.) Against which the candidate's (3.4) test report is graded

3.43. **Structured credit system**

Point system based on the NDT activities of the candidate (3.4) used as an alternative to examination

(3.12) for renewal (3.36) or recertification (3.34)

3.44. **Structured experience program SEP**

Program approved by the certification body (3.6) to reduce industrial experience (3.18)

3.45. **Supervision**

Act of directing the application of NDT performed by other NDT personnel (3.26), which includes the control of actions involved in the preparation of the test, performance of the test and reporting of the results

3.46. **Work activity**

Performance of NDT-related functions and tasks

4. Abbreviations:

The following are the abbreviations used within this document or its appendices:

AEC Authorised Examination centres

ATO Approved Training Organisations

AUT Automated Ultrasonic Testing

BRS Basic Radiation Safety

MEENA: - Meena International (the certification body)

CB Certification Body

ET Eddy Current Testing

MT Magnetic Testing

NDT Non-Destructive Testing

OTJ on-the-job (Training)

PAUT Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing

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PT Penetrant Testing

QA Quality Assurance

QC Quality Control

RI Radiographic Interpreter

RPS Radiation Protection Supervisor

RT Radiographic Testing

TOFD Time of Flight Diffraction

UT Ultrasonic Testing

VT Visual Testing

WI Welding Inspection

TFM / FMC Total Focusing Method / Full Matrix Capture

5. Responsibilities:

General

The certification system, which shall be controlled and administered by a certification body, includes all procedures necessary to demonstrate the qualification and the competence of an individual to carry out tasks in a specific NDT method and product or industrial sector, leading to certification.

Certification body:

*The certification body (**Meena International-DBA-IPC**) is an Organization Accredited to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024:2012.*

The certification body (Meena International):

- a) *To initiate, promote, maintain and administer the certification scheme according to ISO/IEC 17024 and this document;*
- b) *To be independent of any single interest;*
- c) *To be responsible for the definition of sectors (see [Annex A](#));*
- d) *To publish information regarding the scope of the certification scheme and a general description of the certification process;*
- e) *To provide information for training courses that include the syllabi which embody the content of recognized documents; ISO/TS 25107 or equivalent can be used as guidance;*
- f) *To conduct an initial audit and subsequent periodic surveillance audits of the authorized qualification body(ies) to ensure their conformity to the specifications;*
- g) *To monitor, in accordance with a documented procedure, all delegated functions;*
- h) *To approve properly staffed and equipped examination centres, which it shall monitor on a periodic basis;*
- i) *To administer examinations through approved examination centres;*
- j) *To bear full responsibilities for examinations conducted on temporary basis at external premises;*

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- k) To be responsible for ensuring the security of all examination materials (examination specimens, specimen master reports, question banks, examination papers, etc.) and To ensure that these materials are not in use for training purposes;
- l) To be responsible for granting, extension, suspension, withdrawal or revalidation of certification;
- m) To establish an appropriate system for the maintenance of records, which shall be retained for at least one certification cycle;
- n) To require all candidates and certificate holders to give a signed or stamped undertaking to abide by a code of ethics which it shall develop for the purpose and publish;
- o) may approve training bodies; ISO/TS 25108 can be used as guidance;
- p) may delegate, under its direct responsibility, the detailed administration of qualification to authorized qualification bodies, to which it shall issue specifications and/or procedures covering facilities, personnel, verification and control of NDT equipment, examination materials, specimens, conduct of examinations, examination grading, records, etc.;
- q) To establish a process to authorize examiners;
- r) To establish the conditions for the supervision of work activities, which candidates may claim experience under 7.3;
- s) To establish a process for the recognition of higher education;
- t) To establish a process for the approval of non-certified individuals as a referee;
- u) To establish a process for the approval of a structured credit system, where used;
- v) may specify a minimum age requirement for candidates under 7.1;
- w) To maintain and update the question bank and the examination specimens along with their specimen master report;
- x) To conduct the examination only in the presence of, and under the control of, an authorized invigilator of the certification body, to ensure that impartiality is maintained;
- y) To establish a process for the approval of a structured experience program, where used.

5.3. Authorized qualification body

Where established, the authorized qualification body shall:

- a) work under the control of and apply the specifications issued by the Meena International;
- b) be independent of any single predominant interest;
- c) ensure that it is impartial with respect to each candidate seeking qualification, bringing to the attention of the Meena International any actual or potential threat to its impartiality;
- d) apply a documented quality management system approved by the Meena International;
- e) have the resources and expertise necessary to establish, monitor and control examinations centres, including examinations and the verification and control of the equipment;
- f) conduct qualification of candidates including review of application and decision on eligibility;
- g) prepare, supervise and administer examinations;
- h) provide the Meena International with the results of qualification needed to make a decision on certification by the Meena International;
- i) maintain appropriate qualification and examination records according to the requirements of the Meena International.

5.4. Examination Centre:

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5.4.1. *Examination Centres Established by Meena:*

- a) *work under the control of Meena International or authorized qualification body;*
- b) *apply a documented quality procedure approved by Meena International;*
- c) *have the resources needed to prepare and conduct examinations, including the verification and control of equipment;*
- d) *have adequate qualified staff, premises and equipment to ensure satisfactory examinations for the levels, methods, and sectors concerned; the use of external premises is allowed;*
- e) *prepare and conduct examinations under the responsibility of an examiner authorized by Meena International, using only examination questionnaires and specimens established or approved by the Meena International for that purpose;*
- f) *maintain appropriate examination documents according to the requirements of Meena International.*

5.4.2. *An examination centre may operate within the certification body (Meena International); or within an authorized qualification body; or be an independent legal entity or part of a legal entity. An examination centre can be situated at an employer's premises. In this case, Meena International is require controls to preserve impartiality and protect confidentiality of the examinations. The examinations to be conducted only in the presence of, and under the control of, an authorized representative of Meena International.*

5.5. **Employer:**

5.5.1. *The employer is required to document the personal information which must include the declaration of education, training and industrial experience and visual acuity needed to determine the eligibility of the candidate. If the candidate is self-employed, the industrial experience needs to be attested to by a referee.*

All documentation obtained from the employer to be verified by Meena International to the extend required.

5.5.2. *In respect of certified NDT personnel under their control the employer is responsible for:*

- a) *all that concerns the authorization to operate, i.e., providing job-specific training (if necessary);*
- b) *issuing the written authorization to operate;*
- c) *the results of NDT activities;*
- d) *ensuring that the annual vision requirements (of 7.4) are met;*
- e) *maintaining documentary evidence confirming the continuous application of the NDT method in the relevant sector(s) without significant interruption; this action need to be done at least every 12 months;*
- f) *ensuring that personnel hold valid certification relevant to their tasks within the organization;*
- g) *maintaining appropriate records.*
- h) *These responsibilities shall be described in a documented procedure (of the employer).*

5.5.3. *A self-employed individual to assume all responsibilities ascribed to the employer.*

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5.5.4. Certification to this document provides an attestation of general competence of the certified NDT personnel. It does not represent an authorization to operate, since this remains the responsibility of the employer; and the certified NDT personnel may require additional specialized knowledge of parameters such as equipment, NDT procedures, materials and products specific for the employer.

Where required by regulatory requirements and codes, the authorization to operate shall be given in writing by the employer in accordance with a quality procedure that specifies any employer-required job-specific training and examinations designed to verify the certificate holder's knowledge of relevant industry code(s), standard(s), NDT procedures, equipment, and acceptance criteria for the tested products.

5.6. Candidate:

Candidates Need to:

- a) provide documentary evidence of training in accordance with 7.2;
- b) provide documentary evidence that the required experience has been gained under supervision;
- c) provide documentary evidence of vision satisfying the requirements of 7.4;
- d) abide by a code of ethics published by Meena International;
- e) provide other requisites requested by Meena International.

5.7. Certificate Holders:

Certificate holders Need to:

- a) abide by a code of ethics published by Meena International;
- b) maintain records demonstrating evidence that vision requirements have been fulfilled in accordance with 7.4;
- c) notify Meena International and the employer if the conditions of certification are not maintained (see 9.3).

5.8. Examiners:

5.8.1. Examiners are required to:

- a) be authorized by the Meena International to conduct, supervise and grade examinations;
- b) be certified to Level 3 in the NDT method in the product and/or industrial sector for which they are authorized.

5.8.2. An examiner(s) is not permitted to examine any candidate:

- that they have trained for the examination for a period of two years from the date of the conclusion of the training (for that particular method, sector and level);
- who is working (permanently or temporarily) in the same facility as the examiner unless Meena International has established a documented confidentiality and impartiality management procedure for such a situation.

5.9. Referee

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A referee shall be:

- a) *certified to Level 2 or 3 in any NDT method; or*
- b) *non-certified personnel who, approved by the certification body, possess the knowledge, skill, training and experience required to attest to the candidate's industrial experience.*

6. Levels of IPC certification:

6.1. Level 1

6.1.1 An individual certified to Level 1 has demonstrated competence to carry out NDT according to written instructions and under the supervision of Level 2 or Level 3 personnel. Within the scope of the competence defined on the certificate, Level 1 personnel may be authorised by the employer to perform the following in accordance with NDT instructions:

- a) set up NDT equipment.
- b) perform the tests.
- c) record and classify the results of the tests according to written criteria.
- d) report the results.

6.1.2 Level 1 certified personnel shall neither be responsible for the choice of test method or selection of technique to be used, nor for the interpretation of test results.

6.2. Level-2

6.2.1. An individual certified to Level 2 has demonstrated competence to perform NDT according to NDT procedures. Within the scope of the competence defined on the certificate, Level 2 personnel may be authorised by the employer to:

- a) select the NDT technique for the test method to be used.
- b) *specify* the limitations of application of the testing method.
- c) translate NDT codes, standards, specifications and procedures into NDT instructions adapted to the actual working conditions.
- d) set up and verify equipment settings.
- e) perform and supervise tests.
- f) interpret and evaluate results according to applicable standards, codes, specifications or procedures.
- g) carry out and supervise all tasks at or below level 2.
- h) provide guidance for personnel at or below level 2, and
- i) report the results of *NDT* (non-destructive tests).

6.3. Level 3

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6.3.1. An individual certified to Level 3 has demonstrated competence to perform and direct NDT operations for which he is certified. Level 3 personnel have demonstrated:

- a) the competence to evaluate and interpret results in terms of existing standards, codes, and specifications.
- b) sufficient practical knowledge of applicable materials, fabrication, process, and product technology to select NDT methods, establish NDT techniques, and assist in establishing acceptance criteria where none are otherwise available.
- c) a general familiarity with other NDT methods to the extent of Level-2 standard.

6.3.2 Within the scope of the competence *specified* on the certificate, Level 3 personnel may be authorised *by the employer* to:

- a) establish, review for editorial and technical correctness and validate NDT instructions and procedures.
- b) interpret codes, standards, specifications and procedures.
- c) designate the *particular* test methods, procedures *and NDT instruction* to be used.
- d) carry out *and supervise* all tasks at all levels,
- e) provide guidance *and monitoring* for NDT personnel at all levels.

6.3.3 Level 3 certificated personnel may be authorised to carry out, manage and supervise IPC qualification examinations on behalf of Meena International.

6.3.4 Where Level 3 duties require the individual to apply routine NDT by a method or methods within a product or industry sector, it is desirable that industry demand that this person should hold and maintain Level 2 certification in the applicable method(s) and sector(s), however the final decision is left with the employer.

7. **Eligibility:**

7.1. General

The candidate shall fulfil the minimum requirements of vision and NDT training prior to the examination and shall fulfil the minimum requirements for industrial experience and, where applicable, has reached a minimum age as specified by Meena International prior to certification.

7.2. Training:

7.2.1. The candidate shall provide documentary evidence, acceptable to Meena International, that he or she has satisfactorily completed NDT training as shown in Table 2 in the method and level for which the certification is sought.

7.2.2. For all levels, theoretical training may be delivered in a face-to-face instructor-led format, distance learning format, a self-paced format, or a combination of these formats. Practical training shall be delivered by a face-to-face instructor-led format only. The training for initial certification shall remain valid for a maximum period of ten years from the date of completion.

For Level 3, in addition to the minimum training requirements given in Table 2, the preparation for qualification can be completed in different ways dependent on the scientific and technical

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background of the candidate, including attendance at other training courses, conferences or seminars, studying books, periodicals and other specialized printed or electronic materials.

When a distance learning option is utilized, systems shall be established to ensure the entire training syllabus is completed.

NOTE *Guidelines for NDT personnel training organizations are given in ISO/TS 25108*

7.2.3. The minimum duration of training undertaken by the candidate for certification needs to impart the skills and knowledge and not be less than that specified in [7.2.4](#) and [Table 2](#) for the applicable NDT method, with the possible reductions specified in [7.2.5](#).

This duration is based upon candidates possessing mathematical skills and prior knowledge of materials and processes that can be confirmed by appropriately screening of completed prior education. If it is not the case, additional training on this matter may be required by Meena International or its ATOs.

Training days include both practical and theoretical courses.

When creating industrial sectors as specified in [Annex A](#), Meena International need to consider the minimum training requirements in [Table 2](#).

Direct access to Level 2 requires the total days shown in [Table 2](#) for Levels 1 and 2.

Direct access to Level 3 requires the total days shown in [Table 2](#) for Levels 1, 2, and 3. When considering the responsibilities of a certified Level 3 (see [6.3](#)) and the content of item C of the basic examination element for Level 3 (see [Table 5](#)), additional training about the other NDT methods may be necessary and to be assessed by Meena International.

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Table 2 – Minimum Training Requirements:

<i>NDT Method</i>	<i>Level 1 Days</i>	<i>Level 2 Days</i>	<i>Level 3 Days</i>
<i>Basic Product Technology</i>	-	-	12 <i>(Note-1)</i>
<i>ET – Welds / Tubes</i>	5	6	6
<i>PT</i>	3	2	3
<i>MT</i>	3	2	3
<i>RT^b</i>	5	10	5
<i>RI</i>	-	8	-
<i>VT</i>	3	2	3
<i>UT</i>	8	10	5
<i>PAUT</i>	5	5	6
<i>PAUT Data Interpretation</i>	N/A	5	N/A
<i>ToFD – UT</i>	5	5	6
<i>ToFD Data Interpretation</i>	N/A	5	N/A
<i>BRS (Level-1) RPS (Level-2)</i>	2	3	-
<i>Welding Inspection</i>	3	5	6
<i>TFM / FMC</i>	5	5	3
<p>^a One-day duration is at least seven hours, which can be achieved on a single day or by accumulating hours.</p> <p>^b For RT, training days does not include radiation safety training. NOTE 1 In the case of specific techniques, see Annex F.</p>			

Table F.4 – Ultrasonic testing (UT) techniques additional prerequisites

Technique	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<i>UT – TOFD</i>	<i>UT 1</i>	<i>UT 2</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>UT – PA</i>	<i>UT 1</i>	<i>UT 2</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>PAUT-TFM/FMC</i>	<i>UT-1</i>	<i>UT-2</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<p><i>NOTE The level stated in the table is the minimum acceptable level of certification. A Level 3 certificate holder satisfies this requirement.</i></p>			

7.2.5 The possible reductions in training duration are as described hereafter, provided that, when several reductions are applicable, the total reduction does not exceed 50 % of the training duration. Any reduction requires acceptance by Meena International *and ensured that the required competence is maintained.*

a) For all levels:

—for candidates seeking certification in more than one method (e.g., MT, PT), or for those already certified and seeking certification in another method, when the training syllabus

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concerned duplicates certain aspects (e.g. product technology), the total number of training hours for these methods (e.g. PT, MT, VT) may be reduced in line with the training syllabus;

—*for candidates who have graduated in a relevant subject from technical college or university, or have completed at least two years of relevant engineering or science study at college or university (or equivalent formal education), the total required training duration may be reduced by up to 50 %; the certification body shall specify relevant subjects and their qualification.*

b) *For Levels 1 and 2, when the scope of activity is limited in application and/or in technique (and not covered in Annex F), the training scope and duration may be reduced by up to 50 %.*

NOTE: Examples of such limitations include those related to application (e.g. automated ET, UT of bar, tube, and rod or normal beam ultrasonic thickness and lamination testing of rolled steel plate) and to technique (e.g. leak testing only using bubble test, yoke for magnetic particle).

Additional Notes:

NOTE-1: It is appropriate for the subject to be relevant to the NDT method (chemistry, mathematics or physics) and/or to the product or industry sector (chemistry, metallurgy, engineering, etc.). Basic knowledge (direct access to Level 3 examination parts A, B and C)

NOTE-2: The 80 hours training required for Level 3 Basic qualification may be accrued through a combination of classroom training at a MEENA or its approved training organisation (minimum 50%), self-study and distance learning. However, accrued, candidates should record the training undertaken for presentation to IPC if requested. This note relates to the Level 3 Basic Examination and reductions in training duration up to 72 hours maximum, may be granted based on holding:

The reduction in training hours out of total 80 are available for candidate appearing for Level-3 Basic who holds a certificate covering:

Sl. No.	Certification Held	Reduction in training hours
1.	ASNT / ACCP Level-3	64
2.	Other Schemes Complying ISO-9712 Requirements Multi sector	12
3.	Holding 4 or more IPC or ISO 9712 compliant Level-2	60*
Note: * 15 Hours reduction per ISO-9712 compliant NDT Level-2 certification held		

7.3. Industrial NDT Experience

7.3.1 General

The minimum duration of industrial experience to be gained in the method where the candidate is seeking certification shall be as given in [Table 3](#), with the possible reductions given in [7.3.3](#). When the candidate is seeking certification in more than one method, the total time of experience shall be the sum of the experience in each method.

For all levels, a minimum period of experience prior to examination shall be as specified by Meena International (a fraction or percentage of the total requirement in [Table 3](#), as appropriate). In the event that a part of the experience is sought following successful examination, the results of the examination shall remain valid for a maximum of five years.

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Documentary evidence of experience shall be confirmed by the employer or the referee and submitted to Meena International before the formal ISO 9712 Certificate is issued.

Table 3 — Minimum industrial experience

NDT Method	Experience in days ^a					
	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3		
		with Level 1	direct access	higher education, with Level 2	with Level 2	direct access with higher education
AT, ET, LT, RT, TT, UT	45	135	180	270	450	540
MT, PT, ST, VT, WI	15	45	60	180	240	360
PAUT, ToFD, TFM/FMC	45	135	180	270	450	540

^a One-day duration is at least seven hours, which can be achieved on a single day or by accumulating hours. The maximum allowable hours in any one day is 12 hours. Experience in days is achieved by dividing the total accumulated hours by 7.

7.3.2. Level 3

Level 3 responsibilities require knowledge beyond the technical scope of any specific NDT method. This broad knowledge may be acquired through a variety of combinations of education, training and experience. Table 3 details minimum experience for candidates who have successfully completed higher education, as well as candidates without higher education.

7.3.3. Possible reductions

7.3.3.1 The possible reductions in duration of experience are as described hereafter. Any reduction shall require acceptance by the certification body.

7.3.3.2 A certified Level 1, 2 or 3 adding an additional method may be permitted a reduction of required experience of 25 % for that additional method.

7.3.3.3 A certified Level 1, 2 or 3 individual changing sector, adding another sector or technique for the same NDT method shall be required to gain additional experience of at least 25 % of the experience required in Table 3; and this shall never be less than 15 days in duration.

7.3.3.4 When the scope of certification sought is limited in application (i.e. thickness measurement or automated testing), experience duration may be reduced by up to 50 % but shall not be less than 15 days.

7.3.3.5 Up to 50 % of the industrial experience time may be achieved by a structured experience program (SEP). One day of attendance at the SEP may be equivalent to a maximum of five days industrial experience. The SEP shall include all typical tasks (see Clause 6) of the level, method and sector concerned. The additional intent is to gain specific product and technique knowledge. The SEP shall be approved in advance by the certification body and shall be available for audit by the certification body.

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7.4. Vision Requirements – All Levels:

7.4.1. General

Candidates and certificate holders shall maintain and provide documentary evidence of acceptable vision in accordance [7.4.2](#) to [7.4.4](#).

7.4.2. Near Vision Acuity:

Prior to certification, and annually thereafter, near vision acuity shall be verified to be in accordance with the requirements of ISO 18490 or shall permit reading a minimum of Jaeger number 1 or Times Roman N4.5 or equivalent letters at not less than 30 cm with one or both eyes, either corrected or uncorrected.

7.4.3. Colour Vision:

Prior to certification, recertification or renewal, the candidate/certificate holder shall demonstrate that a colour vision test has been administered within the previous 5 calendar years.

It is required that colour vision and/or grey scale perception be sufficient for the individual to be able to distinguish and differentiate between the colours or shades of grey used in the NDT methods/ techniques concerned as specified by the employer.

The colour vision test shall either confirm that the individual has acceptable colour vision without restriction or shall state any limitation(s) on colour perception.

Where any limitation in colour perception exists, the employer shall confirm whether or not this condition results in any limitation(s) to method or application specific techniques.

NOTE: The Ishihara 24 plate test is an example of a suitable colour vision test.

7.4.4. Personnel Adminstrating Vision Tests:

Near vision acuity testing, colour vision and/or grey scale perception verification(s) shall be administered by a licensed physician, nurse, ophthalmologist or optometrist; or by another trained professional who is approved and documented by a Level 3 personnel acting on behalf of the employer.

8. Examination:

8.1. Overview:

8.1.1. General:

The IPC examination covers an NDT method, technique, industrial sector and/or product sector as appropriate.

The process used for the development and selection of examination questions are specified in Meena International's Examination Manual & This document. It ensures the questions are appropriate for the relevant syllabus for the method/technique/sector, and for the level of certification. The process is designed to ensure the comparability of results of examinations using methods such as peer group review, input from subject matter experts, statistical comparisons, and, where the size of the examination cohort allows, Meena International may

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use psychometric principles as specified in [Annex G](#). Meena International have documented appropriate methodology and procedures to ensure fairness, validity, reliability, and general performance of examinations to maintain an acceptable pass grade of 70 % for all examinations.

The processes for preparation and conduct of examinations (see [8.4](#)) are designed to ensure the confidentiality and security of examination questions and examination papers.

The practical specimens are maintained and monitored to ensure consistency and fairness of examinations using processes adopted by Meena International.

The results of examinations remain valid for up to five years while the candidate completes any remaining certification requirements.

8.1.2. Examination Elements:

For Level 1 the examination shall consist of the following examination elements:

- general examination element;
- specific examination element;
- practical examination element.

For Level 2 the examination shall consist of the following examination elements:

- general examination element;
- specific examination element;
- practical examination element;
- NDT instruction writing element.

The Level-2 Practical PAUT & ToFD candidates when taking Level-2 only after successfully passing Level-1 examination only need to interpret the set of data provided by the examiner. The Level-2 Practical PAUT & ToFD candidates when taking Level-2 directly need to demonstrate the ability set up the equipment and collect required number of clear data(s) suitable for interpretation and interpret either the data collected by them or the set of data provided by the examiner.

For Level 3 the examination shall consist of the following examination elements:

- basic examination element which consists of the following items:
 - item A technical knowledge;
 - item B certification body's document knowledge;
 - item C Level 2 knowledge of methods;
- main method examination element which consists of the following items:
 - item D general examination;
 - item E specific examination;
 - item F NDT procedures.

8.1.3. Examination time:

Meena International have specified and published the maximum amount of time allowed for the candidate to complete each examination element, which are based upon the following.

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For Level 1 and Level 2, the total time for the examination elements is based on two minutes per multiple choice examination question for general examination element and three minutes per multiple choice examination question for specific examination element.

For Level 3, the total time for the examination elements is based on three minutes per multiple choice examination question in items B and E and two minutes for items A, C and D.

For questions requiring narrative answers, Level 3 item F, NDT instruction writing element, and for the practical examination element, the time allowed are determined by Meena International and are as follows:

1. Level – 2 Instruction Writing: 2 Hours
2. Level – 3 Procedure Writing: 4 Hours (for conventional NDT Methods)
3. Level – 3 Procedure Writing: 6 Hours (for PAUT, ToFD, & TFM/FMC)

Candidates are permitted to use their laptops with prior verification and approval by Meena International assigned examiner / invigilator.

8.1.4. Examination aids:

The use of aids such as codes, standards, specifications, procedures and electronic devices is only permitted if supplied as part of the examination or authorized by Meena International.

8.2. Examination Content and Grading for Levels 1 and 2:

8.2.1. General examination element

The general examination element is a minimum of 40 multiple choice examination questions and are selected randomly from Meena International or its authorized qualification body's collection of general examination element questions valid at the date of examination.

Where not otherwise addressed by national regulations, there may be an additional examination on radiation safety for the radiographic testing method (Basic Radiation Safety Level-1).

8.2.2. Specific examination element

The specific examination element is a minimum of 20 multiple choice examination questions selected from Meena International or its authorized qualification body's collection of specific examination element questions valid at the date of examination.

If the specific examination element covers two or more sectors, the minimum number of questions is at least 30, taking into account the industrial or product sectors concerned (see [Annex A](#)).

8.2.3. Practical examination element

8.2.3.1. The practical examination element involves applying the test to prescribed specimens, recording (and, for Level 2 candidates, interpreting) the resulting information to the degree required, and reporting the results in the required format. Specimens used for training purposes are not be used for examination.

8.2.3.2. Each specimen is uniquely identified and have a specimen master report which includes all of the equipment settings (as applicable) used to detect specified discontinuities. Markings punched in such a manner that they do not interfere with the practical testing or

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inspection of the specimen and wherever practicable, be concealed from the candidate while the specimen is being used for examination to prevent potential information correlation by candidates with a temporary rotational ID tag. The specimen master report are compiled based upon at least two independent tests, and is verified by a Level 3 certificate holder in that method for use in grading examinations. The independent test reports from which the specimen master report is compiled are retained as records.

8.2.3.3. *Specimens are sector (one or more) specific, representing field geometries and contain discontinuities representative of those likely to occur during manufacturing or in service. They may be natural or artificial. Data sets, digital radiographic images and/or films can be optionally used instead of physical specimens, but at least one physical specimen to be examined.*

Specimens used for adjustment or for determination of thickness, coating or material properties do not need to contain discontinuities. For RT, the specimens to be tested do not need to contain discontinuities and these are exhibited in the data sets or radiographic images for Level 2 interpretation.

NOTE: Guidelines on discontinuity types in examination specimens can be found in ISO/TS 22809.

8.2.3.4. *Meena International ensured that the number of specimens to be tested is adequate to the level, NDT method and sector concerned, and that the specimens contain reportable discontinuities. The number of specimens to be tested in the Level 1 and Level 2 practical examinations are selected in accordance with Annex B of ISO 9712:2021.*

The Level 1 candidates are given written instruction and to follow the NDT instruction(s) provided by the examiner.

The Level 2 candidates are to select the applicable NDT technique and determine the operating conditions related to a given code, standard or specification.

The time allowed for the examination are determined by the Meena International assigned Examiner depending on the method and type of specimen given for testing.

8.2.4. NDT instruction writing examination element

8.2.4.1. *The NDT instruction writing examination element involves the creation of a written NDT instruction by the Level 2 candidate.*

8.2.4.2. *Table D.2 is used for the weighting of the written examination instruction element.*

8.2.5. Grading of the Level 1 and Level 2 examination

8.2.5.1. *The general, specific, practical and NDT instruction writing examination elements are graded separately. When conventional pre-prepared paper-based examinations are used, the assigned examiner is responsible for the grading of the examinations by comparison with model answers. E-assessment systems that automatically score candidate responses against stored data and grade the completed written examination according to prepared algorithms is used for all online examinations. Each correct reply scores 1 point and the mark attributed to the tests is the sum of the points obtained. For the final calculation, the mark of each test is expressed as a percentage.*

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8.2.5.2. The grading of the practical examination elements are based on items 1 to 3 in Table 4, with the recommended weighting factors in relation to the level and method as applicable.

Table 4 — Subjects and weighting factors for grading — Practical examination element

Item	Subject	Weighting factor	
		Level 1 %	Level 2 %
1	Knowledge of NDT equipment and NDT media.	20	10
2	Application of NDT method	35	26
3	The detection of indications or discontinuities and reporting	45	64
Total		100	100

Table D.1 gives guidance on additional details on each item, to be taken into account, as applicable by the examiner.

8.2.5.3. For the Level 1 candidates to be eligible for certification, they need to obtain a minimum grade of 70 % on each examination element (general, specific and practical). For the practical examination element, a minimum grade of 70 % need to be obtained for each specimen tested.

8.2.5.4. Meena International or its authorized qualification body classify all discontinuities that are need to be reported as a minimum as mandatory to be detected.

5.2.5.5. For the Level 2 candidates to be eligible for certification, they need to obtain a minimum grade of 70 % on each examination element (general, specific, practical and NDT instruction writing). For the practical examination element, a minimum grade of 70 % need to be obtained for each specimen tested and NDT instruction writing element, as applicable. Meena International or its authorized qualification body classify all discontinuities that are need to be reported as a minimum as mandatory to be detected and evaluated as unacceptable. The NDT instruction writing element to be graded in accordance with Annex D.

For AT, the required test instruction may relate to a specimen which is not tested during the practical examination element.

8.3. Examination Content and Grading for Level-3:

8.3.1. General

All candidates for level 3 certification in any NDT method need to have successfully completed (with a grade of $\geq 70\%$) the practical examination for level 2 in the relevant sector and method, except for the drafting of NDT instructions for level 1 (see 8.2.4.1). A candidate who is Level 2 in the same NDT method and product sector or who has successfully passed a Level 2 practical examination element for the NDT method in an industrial sector, as specified in Annex A, is exempt from passing again the Level 2 practical examination element. This exemption is only valid for the product sectors covered by the industrial sector concerned and, in any other circumstances, the relevant sector is the sector in which the candidate seeks Level 3 certification.

8.3.2. Basic examination element

8.3.1.1 This written examination is designed to assess the candidate's knowledge of the basic subjects using at least the number of multiple-choice examination questions shown in Table 5. Examination questions are selected in an unpredictable way from Meena International's or its authorized qualification body's collection of basic examination element questions valid at

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the date of examination.

Table – 5 Minimum required number of basic examination element questions for L3:

Part	Subject	Number of Questions
A	Technical knowledge in materials science and process technology (including welds, casting, <i>forging</i> & wrought products)	25 Time Allowed 50 Mts.
B	Test of Certification knowledge based on this document and ISO-9712 current edition (Open Book)	10 Time Allowed 30 Mts.
C ^a	General knowledge of at least four methods as required for Level 2 and chosen by the candidate from the methods given in <i>Table 1</i> . These four methods shall include at least one volumetric method (UT or RT). 15 x 4	60 Time Allowed 120 Mts.
^a For item C, Meena International reserves the authority to adjust the number of questions per method for methods impacted by evolving technology, increasing methods and techniques being added.		

Selection of Questions will be as detailed in Annexure – 1 to this document:

8.3.2.2. Passing basic examination is mandatory for all Level-3 aspirants and shall be passed first. The result will remain valid, until the first main method examination is passed provided this is achieved within five years after passing the basic examination. Candidates need to clear basic one time only.

8.3.3: Main Method Examination *element*:

This written examination shall assess the candidate’s knowledge of the main method subjects using the minimum required number of multiple-choice questions shown in *Table 6*. Examination questions *are* selected in an unpredictable way from the current collection of questions approved by Meena International at the time of the examination.

Table – 6: Minimum Required Number of Main Method Examination *Element* Questions

Part	Subject	Number of Questions
D	Level 3 knowledge relating to the test method applied	30 Time Allowed 60 Mts.
E	Application of the NDT method in the sector concerned, including the applicable codes, standards, and specifications. This may be an open book examination in relation to codes, standards, and specifications.	20 Time Allowed 60 Mts.
F	Drafting of one or more NDT procedures in the relevant sector. The applicable codes, standards, and specifications shall be available to the candidate. (Open Book) For a candidate who has already drafted an NDT procedure in a successfully passed Level 3 examination, MEENA may replace the drafting of a procedure with the critical analysis of an existing	Time Allowed 240 Mts. <i>For Conventional Methods and 360 Mts.</i> <i>For PAUT & ToFD</i>

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	NDT procedure covering the relevant method and sector and containing errors and/or omissions.	
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Selection of Questions will be as detailed in Annexure – 1 to this document:

8.3.4: Grading of Level-3 Examinations:

8.3.4.1: General:

The grading of the basic and main method examinations will be done separately. To be eligible for certification, a candidate *needs to* pass both the basic and main method examination *elements*.

For the three parts A, B, and C of the basic examination element and parts D and E of the main *method examination element, the following requirements apply.*

When conventional pre-prepared paper-based examinations are used, an examiner assigned is responsible for the grading of the examinations by comparing the replies given by the candidate against answer keys approved by the certification body. Each correct reply scores 1 point and the mark attributed to the tests is the sum of the points obtained. For the final calculation, the mark of each test is expressed as a percentage.

At the option of Meena International, e-assessment systems that automatically score candidate responses against stored data and grade the completed written examination according to prepared algorithms is also used for online examinations.

8.3.4.2: Basic Examination Element:

In order to pass the basic examination, the candidate needs to obtain a minimum grade of 70 % in each of parts A, B, and C.

8.3.4.3: Main Method Examination Element:

In order to pass the main method examination, the candidate shall obtain a minimum grade of 70 % in each of parts D, E, and F.

See Table D.3 for the recommended weighting of the written NDT procedure.

8.4. Conduct of Examinations

8.4.1. All examinations are conducted in examination centres established, approved, and monitored by Meena International, either directly or through an authorized qualification body.

8.4.2. At the examination, the candidate needs to have in their possession valid proof of identification and an official notification of the examination when required, which is to be shown to the examiner or invigilator upon demand.

The following ID Proofs are Acceptable to Meena:

- Valid Passport
- Valid Driver's Licence

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- Valid Aadhar Card
- Valid PAN card
- Valid Voter ID
- Personnel ID cards issued by Government & Corporate Companies

Note: Candidates are allowed to use only stationeries provided by the examination centre. Use of a nonprogrammable scientific calculator if authorised examiner may be used during a qualification examination.

8.4.3. Any candidate who, during the course of the examination, does not abide by the examination rules or who perpetrates, or is an accessory to, fraudulent conduct shall be excluded from all further examinations for a period of at least one year.

8.4.4. Examination questions are validated by Meena International. When conventional pre-prepared paper-based examinations are used, the examination papers are validated and approved by an examiner, and the grading to be done in accordance with procedures approved by Meena International (see 8.2.5 and 8.3.4).

When e-assessment systems that select questions, present the "written" examination to a candidate on a computer and grade the examinations are used, Meena International to validate and approve the e-assessment system.

8.4.5. Written (whether e-assessment or conventional) and practical examinations shall be invigilated by an examiner or by one or more invigilators placed under Meena International's responsibility.

8.4.5. With the approval of Meena International, a candidate for a practical examination may use their own equipment.

8.4.7. Candidates are not permitted to bring into the examination area any personal items, unless specifically authorized to do so by the examiner.

8.5. Re-examination

8.5.1. A candidate failing for reasons of unethical behaviour have to wait at least 12 months before reapplying (see 8.4.3).

8.5.2. A candidate who fails one or more elements of an examination (i.e., general, specific, practical etc.) may retake the failed examination no more than twice:

- a. after a minimum time of one month (which may be reduced if further training acceptable to the certification body has been satisfactorily completed);
- b. no later than two years after the initial examination.

NOTE: "Examination parts" in this context refers to: for Levels 1 and 2, the general, specific, and practical examinations; for the Level 3 basic examination, Parts A, B, and C; for the Level 3 main-method examination, Parts D, E, and F.

8.5.3. A candidate failing two re-examinations on one or more elements shall complete further training, acceptable to Meena International, and be required to retake all examination elements.

8.6. Examination Exemptions:

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8.6.1. A certified Level 1 or Level 2 individual changing sectors or adding another sector for the same NDT method shall be required to take sector specific and practical examination elements for the new sector. Level 2 shall also be required to write the NDT instruction for the new sector.

8.6.2. A certified Level 3 individual changing sectors or adding another sector for the same NDT method shall be required to take the sector specific items E and F of the main method examination element only (see [Table 6](#)).

8.6.3. Persons holding a valid ASNT / ACCP Level-3 Certificate appearing for IPC Level-2 will be exempted from and General *and specific theory* Examination, IPC Level-3 Parts A, C of General Examination and Part D of Specific Examination for methods in which they hold Level-3 Certificate. The candidate needs to make a formal request for such exemption in appropriate form.

8.6.4. Candidates taking direct Level-3 Examinations with sufficient experience in the respective NDT method along with Level-2 practical are exempted from Instruction Writing Part of Level-2.

9. Certification:

9.1. Administration:

A candidate fulfilling all certification requirements is certified; and evidence of this certification is made available by Meena International. This is achieved with the issue of hard copy certificate(s), digital certificates and/or by electronically uploading and displaying the relevant information on a database on Meena International's website. Meena International also issue a wallet card that includes a measure(s) to prevent falsification.

9.2. Certificates

Certificates issued by Meena International include the following information as a minimum:

- a) the name of the certified individual, and date of birth of the certified individual;
- b) a unique identification (e.g., a photo, or reference to a photo identification by number);
- c) the name of the certification body (Meena International);
- d) the scope of the certification, including reference to this document, the NDT method(s) and level of certification, and/or applicable techniques and sector(s), including issue date;
- e) any limitations to the certification, if applicable;
- f) the effective date of certification and date of expiry;
- g) the signature and/ or authorization of a designated representative of the Meena International;
- h) contact information or website address of Meena International database for verification purposes.

Where the data listed above can be printed directly from the certification body's website, the printed output shall include a date of print and a statement that the current certification status can be verified at the relevant website.

9.3. Conditions of Certification:

9.3.1. General:

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Certification is granted, extended, suspended, withdrawn or revalidated by Meena International. The maximum period of validity of the certificate is 5 years. To be valid, certificates shall be supported by a current annual verification of acceptable vision as per [7.4](#).

9.3.2. Granting

Certification is granted by Meena International when all certification requirements are fulfilled. The period of validity shall commence upon the decision of certification by Meena International.

9.3.3. Scope extension

Meena International specify requirements for scope extension for situations where an individual seeks extension of their scope of certification for an existing certification (i.e., additional product sector).

At the discretion of Meena International:

- a) the additional scope may be added to the existing certification and the original period of validity maintained; or*
- b) a new certificate with a new period of validity may be issued for the extension to scope only.*
- c) A new certificate is issued for covering the entire scope valid for a period of five years from the date of issue of the new certificate.*

9.3.4. Suspension of certification

Certification may be suspended by Meena International:

- a) if the individual becomes temporarily physically incapable of performing their duties;*
- b) if the individual fails to provide evidence of meeting the visual acuity requirements of this document annually;*
- c) if a significant interruption takes place in the method for which the individual is certified;*
- d) at the discretion of Meena International for any other situations.*

Meena International specify the conditions for revalidation where an individual's certification has been suspended.

9.3.5. Withdrawal of certification

Certification shall be withdrawn by Meena International:

- a) at the discretion of Meena International, i.e., after reviewing evidence of behaviour incompatible with the certification scheme or failure to abide by a code of ethics;*
- b) if the individual fails to meet the requirements of renewal, until such time as the individual meets the requirements for renewal;*
- c) if the individual fails recertification, until such time as the individual meets the requirements for recertification or certification;*
- d) at the discretion of Meena International, when verifiable evidence is received from the employer stating that the individual has become physically incapable of performing their duties.*

9.3.6. Certification after withdrawal

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Meena International clearly specify the conditions for certification where an individual's certification has been withdrawn in the case of [9.3.5 a\)](#) and [d\)](#).

9.3.7. Waiting period prior to certification after withdrawal

In case of [9.3.5 a\)](#), the certification can only be granted after a minimum 12 month waiting period. Meena International to clearly specify the length and conditions of the waiting period in the withdrawal notice.

9.4. Certificates issued by other certification bodies:

9.4.1. Meena International considers certification issued by another certification body. Meena International do so in accordance with a documented process. Where Meena International takes into account work performed by another body, it shall have appropriate reports, data and records to demonstrate that the results are equivalent and conform to the requirements established by the certification scheme. Details are addressed in our procedure QP15.

9.4.2. This process considers the granting of credit for valid certification including a review of education, training, experience, vision and examination requirements of the originating certification body. The review may allow Meena International to recognize the general theory part of a method examination. The review may also allow Meena International to recognize the specific and/or practical examination elements but only when the method/technique, industry/product sector are appropriate.

9.4.3. Where the prior certification is accepted without any additional examination, the expiry of the new certification neither extend beyond that of the prior certification nor extend the scope of certification.

10. Renewal:

10.1. Prior to the completion of the period of validity following certification and recertification, certification can be renewed by Meena International for a new period of validity on production of:

- a) documentary evidence of a satisfactory near vision acuity examination taken within the preceding 12 months; and
- b) documentary evidence of a satisfactory colour vision and / or grey scale perception examination taken within the preceding 60 months; and
- c) verifiable documentary evidence of continued satisfactory work activity without significant interruption in the method and sector for which certificate renewal is sought;

and either:

- d) successful completion of a practical examination element in accordance with [11.2.2](#) except that it shall consist of a minimum of 50 % of the examination specimens required by [11.2.2](#); or
- e) successfully meeting the requirements of the structured credit system as given in [10.2](#) and [Annex C](#).
- f) If the criterion c) for renewal is not met, the individual needs to complete the practical examination elements required by [11.2.2](#).

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10.2. Where a candidate elects to use the structured credit system, they have to provide evidence to Meena International to demonstrate achievement of a minimum of 100 points in the 5 year renewal period based on the requirements of [Table C.1](#).

10.2.1. For candidates seeking renewal of Level 1 certificates, a minimum of 75 of the 100 points is required for any combination of activities listed in part A of [Table C.1](#).

10.2.2. For candidates seeking renewal of Level 2 or 3 certificates, a minimum of 50 of the 100 points is required for any combination of activities listed in part A of [Table C.1](#).

10.2.3. If Meena International has opted to implement a renewal period of less than 5 years (to meet customer specific requirements), the minimum points required may be prorated accordingly [i.e. a 4 year renewal period would require a minimum of 80 points (100 × 4/5)].

10.2.4. Where a candidate is seeking renewal for more than one certificate, points granted for a specific activity can be applied to the total points required for each certificate for those activities not specific to a particular method (e.g., “Current individual membership in NDT or NDT related society”). However, candidates shall meet the total number of points required (i.e., 100 points) for each certificate for which renewal is being sought.

10.3. It is the responsibility of the certificate holder to initiate the procedure required for renewal.

10.3.1. The renewal application should be made to Meena International before the date of the expiration of the certification and shall be no later than 12 months after the date of expiration of the certificate.

10.3.2. If the renewal application is received prior to or on the date of expiration of the certificate, the renewal date of the new certificate shall be the same as the date of expiration of the certificate (i.e. no interruption in certification). The date of expiration of the new certificate will be no more than 5 years from the date of expiration of the original certificate.

10.3.3. If the renewal application is received after the date of expiration of the certificate, the renewal date of the new certificate shall be the date on which all requirements for renewal are met. In this case, there shall have been an interruption in the certification period. The date of expiration of the new certificate will be no more than 5 years from the date of expiration of the original certificate.

10.4. The maximum period of validity of the certificate at renewal is 5 years.

10.5. Certificate holders at Level 1 and Level 2 not meeting the requirements for renewal shall fulfil the requirements for recertification as specified in [11.2.2](#). Certificate holders at Level 3 not meeting the requirements for renewal shall fulfil the requirements for recertification, as specified in [11.3.1](#).

11. Recertification:

11.1. General

Prior to the completion of each second period of validity, the certified individual needs to be recertified by Meena International for a new period of five years or less, provided the individual

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meets the criterion for renewal specified in [10.1 a\)](#) and [10.1 b\)](#) and meets the applicable conditions described in the following.

It is the responsibility of certificate holders to initiate the procedures required to obtain recertification. If the recertification is applied for more than 12 months after expiry of the period of validity, a complete examination (general, specific, and practical) for Level 1 and Level 2 and a main method examination element ([Table 6](#), items D, E and F) for Level 3 are again to be passed successfully.

11.2. Levels 1 and 2

11.2.1. Levels 1 and 2 certificate holders seeking recertification shall provide a confirmation issued by the employer of continued satisfactory work activity without significant interruption in the method and sector for which recertification is sought and satisfy [11.2.2](#).

11.2.2. The individual needs to successfully complete the practical examination element which demonstrates continued competence to carry out work within the scope specified on the certificate. This includes testing specimens (see [Annex B](#)) appropriate to the scope of recertification and in addition, for Level 2, the production of a written instruction suitable for the use of Level 1 personnel (see [8.2.4.1](#)). If the individual fails to achieve a grade of at least 70 % for each specimen tested (weighted according to the guidance in [Table 4](#)), and, for Level 2, for the instruction, two re-examinations of the recertification examination are allowed after at least 7 days and within 12 months of the first attempt at the recertification examination.

11.2.3. In the event of failure in the two allowable re-examinations, the certificate to be be withdrawn.

In order to reinstate certification, a candidate shall:

- complete further training, acceptable to Meena International; and
- retake all examination elements required for initial certification.

The date of expiration of the reinstated certificate shall be no more than 5 years from the date of expiration of the original certificate.

11.2.4. If the criterion in [11.2.1](#) for recertification is not met, the individual needs to complete the general, specific and practical examinations required by [11.1](#).

11.3. Level 3:

11.3.1. Level 3 certificate holders seeking recertification are required to provide a confirmation issued by the employer of continued satisfactory work activity without significant interruption in the method and sector for which recertification is sought and:

- a) satisfy the Level 3 requirements of [11.3.3](#) for a written examination; or
- b) meet the requirements for a structured credit system, as given in [11.3.2](#) and [Table C.1](#).

The individual is given an option to decide between the examination or credit system for recertification. If the credit system is chosen and requires submission of employer's documents or access to an employer's premises, the individual needs to provide to Meena International a written statement of approval from the employer.

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In both cases (written examination or credit system), the individual either provide appropriate documented evidence, acceptable to Meena International, of their continued practical competence in the method or pass a Level 2 practical examination, as specified in [11.2.2](#), except for the drafting of NDT instructions.

11.3.2. Where a certificate holder elects to use the structured credit system, they have to provide evidence to Meena International to demonstrate achievement of a minimum of 100 points in the 5 year recertification period based on the requirements of [Table C.1](#).

For certificate holders seeking recertification of Level 3 certification:

- a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 70 of the 100 points is required for any combination of activities listed in item A of [Table C.1](#); and
- a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 50 of the 100 points is required for any combination of activities listed in item B of [Table C.1](#).

If Meena International has opted to implement a recertification period of less than 5 years, the minimum points required may be prorated accordingly [(i.e., a 4-year renewal period would require a minimum of 80 points ($100 \times 4/5$)].

11.3.3. Where a certificate holder elects to take the written examination or does not meet the structured credit system requirements, they have to successfully complete an examination that includes:

- a minimum of 20 multiple-choice questions on the application of the test method in the sector(s) concerned which demonstrates an understanding of current NDT techniques, standards, codes or specifications, and applied technology; and
- a minimum of 10 multiple-choice questions on the requirements of Meena International's certification scheme.

11.3.4. If the individual fails to achieve a grade of at least 70 % in the recertification examination, a maximum of two retests of the recertification examination shall be allowed. The time period within which all tests are to be taken is 12 months, unless otherwise extended by Meena International.

11.3.5. In the event of failure in the two allowable re-examinations, the certificate to be withdrawn.

In order to reinstate certification, a candidate shall:

- complete further training, acceptable to Meena International; and
- retake all main method examination items as required for initial certification.

The date of expiration of the reinstated certificate shall be no more than 5 years from the date of expiration of the original certificate.

11.3.6. A candidate who applies for and does not meet the requirements of the credit system are to be recertified in accordance with 11.3.3. In the event of failure at the first attempt at recertification by examination, only one retest of the recertification examination is to be allowed within 12 months of the date of application for recertification via the structured credit system.

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12. Files:

Meena International is responsible for the maintenance of:

- a) *an actual list or database of all certified individuals classified according to level, NDT method and sector;*
- b) *an individual file for each candidate who has not been certified, for at least five years from the date of application;*
- c) *an individual file(s) for each certified individual and for each individual whose certification has lapsed containing:*
 - 1) *a unique personal identifier (e.g., a photo or reference to a photo identification by number);*
 - 2) *application forms;*
 - 3) *examination records, such as questionnaires, answers, description of specimens, records, results of test, NDT procedures, and grade sheets;*
 - 4) *renewal and recertification documents, including evidence of visual acuity and continuous work activity;*
 - 5) *reason(s) for any withdrawal of certification.*

Individual files shall be kept under suitable conditions of safety and confidentiality for as long as the certificate remains valid and for at least one full certification cycle after the certification has lapsed.

NOTE The archiving of specimen, data sets or radiographs is not required.

13. Transition period:

13.1. The aim of this clause is to permit the initiation of the system when Meena International applies the certification scheme to an NDT method, which is not yet covered within its scheme or when a new sector is created. Meena International may temporarily appoint, for a period not exceeding five years from the date of implementation of the new method or sector, duly qualified personnel as examiners for the purpose of conducting, supervising and grading the examinations. The five-year implementation period is not to be used by Meena International as a means to certify candidates who do not meet all the qualification and certification requirements of this document. When new/additional training requirements of the new method or sector are adopted, currently certified personnel shall provide documented evidence of full compliance at the next recertification cycle.

13.2. Duly qualified personnel means that such personnel:

- a) *have the knowledge of the principles of NDT and the specific knowledge in relation to the sector;*
- b) *have industrial experience of the application of the NDT method;*
- c) *have the ability to conduct examinations;*
- d) *be able to interpret the questionnaire and results of examinations.*

13.3. Within two years of the date of appointment, these examiners shall have gained certification by satisfying the requirements for recertification as described in 11.3.1.

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14. Transition between ISO 9712:2012 and this 2021 edition of International Standard

Meena International has initiated the process and target to implement requirements of ISO 9712:2021 between April and June 2023.

Additional Information:

15. Complaints and Appeals

Meena International has a structured complaints and appeals procedure and the same may be downloaded from Meena’s website or from HQ in the following address.

Meena International,
 Training & Certification Division,
 Plot No.-7, First Cross Street, VGN Royal Enclave,
 Paruthipattu, Chennai – 600071, India.

IPC certificate holders must recognise that personal integrity and professional competence are

16. Change of Employer

- Change of employment shall not require a recertification.
- IPC Certificates signed by the employer for work authorisation shall be returned to Meena International for re-issue upon change of employer. This service is done free of cost and the change request shall be supported by an offer of employment copy from the new employer and this is subject to verification by Meena.

17. Other Certifying Bodies Recognised by Meena:

Meena will prepare and update from time to time a list of Certifying Bodies (CBs) recognised by Meena and holders of valid certificates from such CBs will be granted exemption some or all examination parts based on the merit of the certification held. This will be assessed by the Certification Manager on case by case and exemption granted as applicable.

18. Procedure for Migration to IPC Scheme:

The details are addressed in Quality Procedure, document No. QP_15. Full procedure and eligibility criteria are addressed in this procedure.

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