



# ASNT Central Certification Program

**ASNT Document ACCP-CP-1**

**Revision 5**

**Approved 10/17/08**



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## FOREWORD

This document establishes the requirements for the ASNT Central Certification Program (ACCP). The ACCP has been developed to improve NDT reliability by providing standardized requirements administered by an accredited certification body. The program will provide prospective employers with NDT personnel that have achieved a high level of performance and competency within the NDT profession.

Individuals that successfully meet the training, experience and examination requirements of this document for a specified level of qualification covered by this document will have met or exceeded the same time requirements as listed in the following documents:

ASNT Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A, *Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing*

ANSI/ASNT Standard CP-189, *ASNT Standard for Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel*

CP-106:2008, *Nondestructive Testing - Qualification and Certification of Personnel*

Aerospace Industries Association Standard NAS 410, *NAS Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel*

NOTE: Wherever gender specific words such as "his", "her", "he" or "she" appear in this document the other gender is also applicable.

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## 1.0 Scope

This document establishes the system for central certification of nondestructive testing (NDT) personnel administered and maintained by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT). The purpose of the ASNT Central Certification Program (ACCP) is to provide the NDT industry with personnel who have achieved a high standard of NDT qualifications by examination, and independent, transportable NDT certifications. The program will promote national and international acceptance of NDT certification and reduce the need for multiple audits of certification programs. This program has no restrictions relative to the gender, creed, race or nationality of applicants.

The following nondestructive test methods are covered by this document. The abbreviation used for each test method is shown in parentheses.

- a) Magnetic Particle Testing (MT)
- b) Liquid Penetrant Testing (PT)
- c) Radiographic Testing (RT)
- d) Ultrasonic Testing (UT)
- e) Visual and Optical Testing (VT)
- f) Electromagnetic Testing (ET)

Other NDT test methods may be added to this program as industry need is identified.

## 2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 **ACCP certification:** The process whereby ASNT certifies that an individual has met the requirements of this document for the levels of qualification designated herein as ACCP Level II or ACCP Professional Level III in a given NDT method, technique or industrial sector.
- 2.2 **ASNT NDT Level III:** An individual who, having passed ASNT administered Basic and Method(s) Examinations, holds a current, valid ASNT NDT Level III certificate in at least one method.
- 2.3 **Authorized examination center (AEC):** A site with facilities and personnel, independent of the employer, approved by the ASNT Certification Management Council (CMC) to administer NDT qualification examinations.
- 2.4 **Authorized qualifying body (AQB):** A third-party certification body, approved by the ASNT CMC in accordance with the CMC Program Comparison Procedure document PCP-1.

The ASNT Certification Management Council (CMC) shall be responsible for the comparison of 3rd-Party Bodies through the use of audits/surveys, review of program documents, written and operational examination data, and other pertinent information as described in the PCP-1 document.

- 2.5 **Candidate:** An individual seeking certification in accordance with this document.
- 2.6 **Certificate:** Written testimony of qualification.
- 2.7 **Certification Body:** The body of volunteer subject matter experts responsible for the development and maintenance of all ASNT certification requirements. The ASNT certification body is the Certification Management Council (CMC).
- 2.8 **Employer or responsible agency:** The corporate, private, or public entity that directly employs NDT personnel for wages or salary.
- 2.9 **Employer authorization:** The process whereby an employer's NDT Level III reviews the certificates of ASNT central certification for the employer's NDT personnel, determines if further examination is required (see job specific examinations in 7.4), and then, on behalf of the employer, authorizes personnel to perform NDT for that employer.
- 2.10 **Examination, Basic:** An ASNT Level III written examination covering nationally recognized certification procedures, materials science and processes technology and the basic principles of NDT methods as required for level II.
- 2.11 **Examination, General:** a Level I or Level II written examination covering the principles, fundamentals and theory of an NDT method.
- 2.12 **Examination, Job-specific:** any additional examination concerned with the application of an NDT method to a specialized product not commonly involved in a particular industrial sector.
- NOTE: *Job specific examinations are outside the scope of this document.*
- 2.13 **Examination, Method:** A Level III written examination which assesses the overall knowledge of the Level III candidate in the NDT test method for which certification is sought.
- 2.14 **Examination, Practical:** An examination designed to assess the candidate's actual application of a specific NDT method or technique to test specimens to detect, identify and record discontinuities in those samples.
- 2.15 **Examination, Procedure Preparation:** A Level III examination in which an ACCP Professional Level III candidate demonstrates the ability to write an NDT procedure for the applicable test method based on a code or specification.
- 2.16 **Examination, Renewal:** An abbreviated written or practical examination requiring the candidate to demonstrate their continued knowledge or ability in the applicable test method or technique.
- 2.17 **Examination, Specific:** A written examination concerned with the application of an NDT method in a particular industrial sector or sectors, which includes knowledge of the product and related codes, standards, specifications and acceptance criteria.
- 2.18 **Experience:** The time period during which the candidate performs the specific NDT method or technique under general supervision, including personal application of the NDT method to materials, parts or structures.

- 2.19 **Industrial Sector (IS):** A particular area in industry or technology where specialized NDT practices are utilized requiring specific skill, knowledge, equipment or training to achieve satisfactory performance.
- 2.20 **NDT instruction:** A description of the steps to be followed when performing an NDT technique; developed in conformance with a procedure.
- 2.21 **NDT Instructor:** a person able to demonstrate the skills and knowledge to plan, organize, and present classroom, laboratory, demonstration, and/or on-the-job NDT instruction, training, and/or education programs.
- 2.22 **NDT method:** Application of a physical principle in non-destructive testing (e.g. ultrasonic testing)
- 2.23 **NDT procedure:** A written description that establishes minimum requirements for performing an NDT method on any object, written in accordance with established standards, codes, or specifications.
- 2.24 **NDT technique:** specific way of utilizing an NDT method (e.g. water-washable penetrant testing technique).
- 2.25 **NDT training:** process of instruction in theory and practice in the NDT method in which certification is sought, which takes the form of training courses to an approved syllabus, but shall not include the use of specimens used in practical examinations.
- 2.26 **On-the-job training:** The practical application of an NDT test method in production or field conditions under the direct supervision of a Level II or Level III person in the applicable test method.
- 2.27 **Period of validity:** The time period for which ACCP certification is considered valid as detailed in this document.
- 2.28 **Practical training:** Instruction in which the personnel being trained are instructed in the hands-on set-up and use of equipment in the applicable test method.
- 2.29 **Qualification:** Demonstration or possession of education, skills, training, knowledge, and experience required for personnel to properly perform NDT to a level as specified in this document.
- 2.30 **Renewal by Points:** The renewal of an ACCP certificate at the end of the first period of validity after examination and at 10 year intervals thereafter as specified by this document.
- 2.31 **Renewal Points:** Credits accumulated as detailed in this document that demonstrates that the certificate holder has remained current in the field of NDT.
- 2.32 **Renewal by Examination:** The renewal of an ACCP certificate by examination at the end of the second period of validity after examination as specified by this document and at 10 year intervals thereafter.
- 2.33 **Significant interruption:** A period of time in which a person does not perform the NDT activities using the test method or technique in the industrial sector for which certification is held as defined by this document.

- 2.34 **Supervision, direct:** line-of-sight supervision during the inspection process by a person qualified to Level II or Level III in the applicable test method
- 2.35 **Supervision, general:** the act of directing the application of NDT test methods performed by other NDT personnel which includes the control of actions involved in the preparation of the test, performance of the test and reporting of the results.
- 2.36 **Technical Services Department:** The ASNT department responsible for overseeing the administration of ASNT examinations and for the security and maintenance of ASNT examinations developed by the CMC.
- 2.37 **Test specimen:** a sample of a product form containing known discontinuities used in practical examinations.

**NOTE:** *Test specimens should be representative of products typically tested in the applicable industrial sector and may include more than one area or volume to be tested.*

- 2.38 **Trainee:** an individual who works under the supervision of certified personnel but who does not conduct any tests independently, does not interpret test results and does not write reports on test results.

**NOTE:** *A trainee may be registered as being in the process of gaining appropriate experience to establish eligibility for qualification to direct access to Level II*

### 3.0 Categories of Qualification

The categories of qualification for the ACCP are defined as the job skills, necessary to adequately perform the NDT activities required within a given test method for the level of qualification indicated. Qualified personnel shall be cognizant in the subject material contained in the test method body of knowledge for the applicable test method and level of qualification.

3.1 **Level I:** Level I qualification is not offered under the ACCP.

3.2 **Level II:** An ACCP Level II shall have the skills and knowledge to set up and calibrate equipment, to conduct tests, and to interpret, evaluate, and document results in accordance with procedures approved by an ACCP Professional Level III or ASNT NDT Level III. An ACCP Level II shall be thoroughly familiar with the scope and limitations of the method to which certified and should be capable of directing the work of trainees and Level I personnel. An ACCP Level II shall be able to organize and report NDT results. An ACCP Level II shall be capable of developing an NDT instruction in conformance with a procedure. An ACCP Level II shall be knowledgeable in the NDT subject matter contained the NDT Body of Knowledge for Level II in the applicable test method(s).

3.3 **Professional Level III:** An ACCP Professional Level III shall have the skills and knowledge to establish techniques, to interpret codes, standards, and specifications, to designate the particular technique to be used, and to prepare or approve procedures and instructions. An ACCP Professional Level III shall also have general familiarity with other NDT methods. An ACCP Professional Level III shall be capable of conducting or

directing the training and examination of NDT personnel in the methods for which the ACCP Professional Level III is qualified. An ACCP Professional Level III shall have knowledge of materials, fabrication, and product technology in order to establish techniques and to assist in establishing acceptance criteria when none are otherwise available. An ACCP Professional Level III shall be knowledgeable in the NDT subject matter contained the NDT Body of Knowledge for Level III in the applicable test method(s).

**3.4 Limited Certification:** This category of qualification is available to ACCP Level II personnel who wish to gain certification in specific testing techniques within a given test method.

## 4.0 Responsibilities

### 4.1 ASNT

- 4.1.1 ASNT shall maintain their status as an accredited certification body in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and ISO 17024 requirements;
- 4.1.2 ASNT shall initiate, maintain and promote the ACCP as specified in this document;
- 4.1.3 ASNT shall oversee procedures for, and operation of, the ACCP in accordance with this document; and
- 4.1.4 ASNT shall maintain ultimate responsibility for the ACCP.

### 4.2 Certification Management Council (CMC)

The ASNT Certification Management Council is the ASNT certification committee and shall be made up of NDT subject matter experts that serve as the certification committee for ASNT. Their role shall be as follows:

- 4.2.1 The CMC shall develop and maintain the content of all ACCP qualification examinations;
- 4.2.2 The CMC shall develop procedures for the ACCP including establishment of ACCP requirements for AQB's and AEC's;
- 4.2.3 The CMC shall determine, define and implement Industrial Sectors (IS's) within the ACCP; and
- 4.2.4 The CMC shall approve all AQB's and AEC's.

### 4.3 Authorized Qualifying Bodies (AQB's)

- 4.3.1 AQB's may perform those functions of the ACCP for which they have been authorized by the CMC under the Program Comparison Procedure PCP-1.

- 4.3.2 AQB's may authorize AEC's when permitted to do so by the CMC, only if the CMC provides final approval of the AEC's.

**4.4 Authorized Examination Centers (AECs)**

- 4.4.1 AEC's, when authorized by the CMC, may be established at the same site as that of AQB's.
- 4.4.2 AEC's may perform those examination functions of the ACCP for which they have been authorized by the CMC.

**4.5 ASNT Technical Services Department**

- 4.5.1 Shall implement all requirements related to ACCP activities as developed or approved by the CMC.
- 4.5.2 Administer procedures for, and operation of, the ACCP including administration of ACCP requirements for AQB's and AEC's.

**5.0 Industrial Sectors**

Industrial sectors (ISs) shall be established when it can be shown that specific NDT skills or demonstrated knowledge above and beyond the standard NDT certification procedures is required and that the development of such a Sector is viable and will be supported by that segment of industry. Sectors may be developed at the request of industry participants or at the initiative of the Certification Management Council. Once established, all Industrial Sector examinations will be developed, maintained and administered following CMC procedures. Industrial Sector examinations, once developed, may be administered directly by ASNT or through AQB's or AEC's. Current and proposed CMC Industrial Sectors are:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Description</b>
General Industry (GI)	Intended for personnel working in accordance to multiple industry codes, standards and specifications for general construction needs.
Pressure Equipment (PE)	Intended to address the needs of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel industry, and is designed for NDT personnel working predominantly in accordance with the ASME B&PV Code, the ANSI/ASME B31.1 & B31.3 Codes or equivalent standards.
Aviation/Aerospace (AA)	Intended for personnel working in the Aviation or aerospace industry.

Sector	Description
Petro-Chemical (PC)	Intended to address the needs of the Petro-Chemical industry, and is designed for NDT personnel working predominantly in accordance with API 1104, ANSI/ASME B31.3, the ASME B&PV Code or equivalent standards.

## 6.0 Eligibility for Examination

6.1 ACCP Level II candidates shall have met the training requirements shown in Table 1 for the applicable test method(s) and shall submit documentation of the hours claimed.

**Table 1 — Initial Training Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

NDT Method	Level II (hours)	NDT Method	Level II (hours)
ET	80	RT	120 <sup>2</sup>
PT	40 <sup>2</sup>	UT	120 <sup>2</sup>
MT	40 <sup>2</sup>	VT	24 <sup>2</sup>

NOTE 1: Training hours may include both practical and theory courses.

NOTE 2: Practical training may not make up more than 50% of the overall level II training curriculum.

Equivalent training: For personnel previously approved/certified under other recognized NDT qualification programs, the adequacy of their previous training to the requirements of Table 1 must be documented and acceptance of that documentation will be determined by ASNT.

6.2 ACCP Level III candidates must satisfy one of the following sets of criteria to be eligible to examine:

- 6.2.1 Have graduated from a minimum four-year\* US college or university curriculum with a baccalaureate degree in engineering or science, plus one (1) additional year of experience beyond the level II requirements in NDT in an assignment comparable to that of an NDT Level II in the applicable NDT method(s), or
- 6.2.2 Have completed with passing grades at least two years of engineering or science study at a university, college, or technical school, plus two (2) additional years of experience beyond the level II requirements in NDT in an assignment at least comparable to that of NDT Level II in the applicable NDT method(s), or
- 6.2.3 Have four (4) years experience beyond the level II requirements in NDT in an assignment at least comparable to that of an NDT Level II in the applicable NDT method(s).

\* *Equivalent baccalaureate degrees from an accredited 3-year program will be accepted for international candidates.*

6.3 For Professional Level III candidates with a currently valid ASNT NDT Level III certificate in the applicable test method(s) the Basic and Method examination is waived.

## 7.0 Qualification Examinations

### 7.1 ACCP Level II

- 7.1.1 General Written Examination: This examination shall consist of a minimum of 40 questions that assess the candidate's knowledge of the theory, fundamentals and principles within the applicable test method.
- 7.1.2 Specific Written Examination: This examination shall require candidates to read a procedure specific to the Industrial Sector and test method for which certification is sought, and to answer a minimum of 30 questions based on that procedure.
- 7.1.3 Practical Examination: This examination assesses the candidate's ability to perform NDT in the applicable test method on a minimum of two (2) CMC approved test specimens. When designated by the CMC, multiple areas of interest may be contained in one test specimen. The specimens and areas of interest shall contain actual or artificially induced discontinuities representing those discontinuities found in the product type and Industry Sector for which certification is sought. Candidates must locate, interpret and evaluate discontinuities and shall properly document test results. The practical examination shall also require that the candidate prepare a written work instruction or technique sheet sufficient to permit a third party to recreate or duplicate the examination in question.
- 7.1.4 Industry Specific Examinations: If an industry has developed examinations that meet their specific needs and that meet or exceed the requirements of the equivalent ACCP examinations, upon approval of the CMC these examinations may be used in lieu of the ACCP examinations for that Sector. If Industry Specific examinations are used, the certification documentation shall clearly indicate the industry sector for which certification has been granted.

### 7.2 ACCP Professional Level III

- 7.2.1 Basic Examination: This written examination consists of a minimum of 95 questions that assess the candidate's knowledge in the following areas:
  - 7.2.1.1 NDT certification programs in accordance with Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A and ANSI/ASNT CP-189;
  - 7.2.1.2 Materials, fabrication, and product technology; and
  - 7.2.1.3 General knowledge of other common NDT methods.

- 7.2.2 Method Examination: This written examination consists of a minimum of 90 questions that assess the candidate’s knowledge and application of fundamentals, principles, and techniques for that method in which certification is sought.
- 7.2.3 Procedure Preparation Examination: This written examination requires candidates to demonstrate the ability to prepare an NDT procedure for the applicable test method for a specified part based on a supplied NDT specification commonly used in the applicable Industry Sector.
- 7.2.4 Practical Examination: All ACCP Professional Level III candidates shall be required to pass the full ACCP Level II Practical Examination (for all techniques) as detailed in 7.1.3. Candidates holding Limited ACCP Level II certification(s) must take a practical examination on at least one test specimen in each remaining test technique but shall examine on a minimum of two (2) test specimens within the applicable test method.
- 7.2.5 If an examination is required for both Level II and Level III certification, those examination requirements are waived for Level III candidates that hold a currently valid ACCP Level II certificate.

7.3 Examination validity: The period of validity for a successfully completed general examination is shown below. If certification in the applicable test method or technique is not completed within these time frames, the examination(s) must be retaken.

<b>Exam Type</b>	<b>Period of Exam Validity</b>
General written examination	5 years
Specific examination	2 years
Instruction Preparation examination	2 years
Practical examination	2 years
Basic examination	5 years
Method examination	2 years
Procedure Preparation examination	2 years

The Basic and General Written examinations need not be retaken when additional test methods or techniques (as applicable) are added. If all ACCP certifications expire, all of the initial qualification examinations must be retaken to regain certification.

- 7.4 Job specific examinations: Examinations for specialized NDT techniques or unique product forms above and beyond those detailed in 7.1 and 7.2 are outside the scope of this document and are the responsibility of the employer or responsible agency.
- 7.5 Limited Certification: Limited certification by technique is not permitted for ACCP Professional Level III personnel. When requested by an industry-developed Sector, limited certification is permitted provided the certification documentation clearly states the limitations. Level II candidates may choose to certify in individual techniques within a test method by taking practical examinations using only those techniques for which certification is sought and by taking the appropriate Specific examination for the Industry

Sector in which certification is sought. Such limitations will be clearly stated on the certification documents for such certification using the technique designations shown below:

Test Method	Technique and Designator			
ET	Alternating Current Field Measurement (ACFM)	Eddy Current (EC)	Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL)	Remote Field (RF)
MT	Yoke (Y)	Bench (B)		
PT	Solvent Removable (SR)	Water-Washable (WW)	Post Emulsifiable (PE)	
RT	Radioactive Materials (RAM)	X-ray (X)	Both (B)	
UT	Straight/Angle - Weld (W)	Straight/Angle - Castings/Forgings (CF)		
VT	Direct (D)	Remote (R)		
Industry Sector Methods		Technique and Designator		
ET*	This designator is used for Balance of Plant Heat Exchanger (BOP/HX) Eddy Current Certification Only.		"A" = Data Acquisition only	"Y" = Data Analysis only

Additional techniques may be added as required.

7.6 Scope of certification: Personnel currently certified under one Industry Sector may certify in another Sector without retaking the Basic Examination, Method Examination, or General Examination, as applicable, but shall complete the Sector-specific examinations for the new Sector.

#### 7.7 Grading

All qualification examinations shall be graded by ASNT Technical Services staff in accordance with approved Certification Management Council (CMC) operating procedures.

#### 7.8 Reexamination

7.8.1 Candidates retaking failed examinations within 12 months of the initial examination shall submit a new examination application that shows personal information, changes in experience and training gained since the initial application. Personnel re-examining after 12 months of the most recent attempt shall complete the full application. A new vision examination is required if the initial eye test was not taken within the past 12 months.

7.8.2 Candidates failing examination(s) for behavior not in accordance with the applicable code of ethics must have approval from the CMC Ethics Subcommittee in order to apply for any examination.

7.9 Vision Requirements: Candidates shall submit documentation of satisfactory vision with their examination application. Vision examinations shall be administered by a

physician, licensed nurse, ophthalmologist, optometrist or by personnel approved by the employer's Level III. Candidates shall meet the following vision requirements:

7.9.1 near-vision acuity: The candidate shall demonstrated by reading a minimum of Jaeger J-1 or equivalent\* with one or both eyes, either corrected or uncorrected. The distance for this examination shall be dictated by the reading card being used but may not be less than 12 inches (30 cm);

\* Equivalent eye examination results for Jaeger J-1 visual acuity are:  
Snellen 20/22; Times Roman 3.5 Point text; OrthoRater # 9;  
or Titmus (SAB-1, SAL-1 or SAR-1) # 10

7.9.2 color vision: The candidate shall be able to differentiate among the colors used in the NDT method(s) for which certification is sought;

7.9.3 supplemental vision requirements: Job specific vision requirements are beyond the scope of this document and shall be determined by the employer or responsible agency.

7.9.4 visual examination documentation: documentation of satisfactory near-distance visual acuity and color vision shall be submitted to ASNT with the initial, renewal and recertification applications. Annual visual examinations, including any supplemental job-specific examinations, shall be administered by the employer or responsible agency and made a part of the candidate's certification file. These records shall be made available to ASNT on demand.

7.9.5 For personnel that fail to meet the color vision requirement of 7.10.2, the employer or responsible agency must perform additional examinations that demonstrate that the candidate can differentiate between the colors to be used in the applicable NDT processes. Documentation of these additional examinations shall be attested to by the employer or responsible agency and submitted with the eye examination form.

## **8.0 Examination Results**

8.1 The ASNT Technical Services shall send examination results in Pass/Fail format to the candidate by surface mail or commercial carrier within 30 business days from the date of the examination. Results may be released to the candidate by fax or e-mail only upon receipt of a written request signed by the candidate. The signed request shall specify the transmittal method and address where the information is to be sent.

8.2 Candidates that successfully pass all required qualification examinations for ACCP certification shall also be issued certification documents for the appropriate test method or technique as described in 10.0, Certification.

8.3 Candidates that do not pass all of the required examinations for certification may retake the failed examinations and if successfully completed within the time frames shown in paragraph 7.3, shall be issued certification as noted above.

## 9.0 Eligibility for Certification

To be eligible for ACCP certification, candidates must meet the following requirements:

9.1 must have passed all required examinations for the appropriate test method or technique as shown in paragraphs 7.1 or 7.2; and

9.2 Level II candidates must have met the following experience requirements:

**Table 2: Level II Experience Requirements**

	<b>ET</b>	<b>MT</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>RT</b>	<b>UT</b>	<b>VT</b>
<b>Minimum Hours in Method:</b>	800	265	200	800	800	200
<b>Total Hours in NDT<sup>B</sup></b>	1600	530	400	1600	1600	400

A: Experience shall be based on the actual hours worked in the specific method.

B: While fulfilling total NDT experience requirement, experience may be gained in more than one (1) method, and hours spent performing NDT-related tasks may be counted. Minimum experience hours must be met for each method.

9.3 The experience requirement for Level III candidates is satisfied when the experience requirements shown in paragraph 6.2 are met.

## 10.0 Certification

10.1 By issuing ACCP certification documents, ASNT certifies that the individual has satisfied the requirements of this document; however, ASNT does not give authority or license to that individual to perform NDT.

10.2 The employer or responsible agency should, through a NDT Level III, review the individual's qualification records for satisfactory completeness and retain copies thereof prior to authorizing the individual to perform NDT. The employer or responsible agency shall be solely responsible for authorizing employees to perform NDT. If the individual is self-employed, then the individual shall assume all employer responsibilities described herein.

10.3 Upon successful completion of all qualification examinations required for the applicable test method or technique, ASNT will issue a parchment-type certificate and a wallet card indicating that the person named has met the ACCP requirements for the test methods or techniques shown. The certificate and wallet card remain the property of ASNT and must be surrendered on demand.

10.3.1 The ACCP certificate shall be 8-1/2" x 11" in size and shall be light blue for ACCP Level II personnel and tan for ACCP Professional Level III personnel. Each certificate shall contain the following as a minimum:

10.3.1.1 the ACCP name with a raised gold leaf ASNT logo;

- 10.3.1.2 the name of the certificate holder;
  - 10.3.1.3 the level of certification;
  - 10.3.1.4 the test method(s) for which ACCP certification is held;
  - 10.3.1.5 the applicable Industrial Sector(s);
  - 10.3.1.6 the extent of limitation if a certification is limited;
  - 10.3.1.7 the initial certification date;
  - 10.3.1.8 the certification expiration date;
  - 10.3.1.9 a unique ACCP identification number;
  - 10.3.1.10 the signature of the ASNT President and CMC Chairman at the time the certificate was issued; and
  - 10.3.1.11 the raised, embossed ASNT seal.
- 10.3.2 The ACCP wallet card shall be a plastic driver's license type card and shall contain the following as a minimum:
- 10.3.2.1 the ACCP name and logo;
  - 10.3.2.2 the name of the certificate holder;
  - 10.3.2.3 a picture of the certificate holder's face;
  - 10.3.2.4 the level of certification;
  - 10.3.2.5 the test method(s) for which ACCP certification is held;
  - 10.3.2.6 the applicable Industrial Sector(s);
  - 10.3.2.7 the extent of limitation if a certification is limited;
  - 10.3.2.8 the initial certification date for each test method or technique;
  - 10.3.2.9 the certification expiration date for each test method or technique;
  - 10.3.2.10 a unique ACCP identification number;
  - 10.3.2.11 the signature of the certificate holder;
  - 10.3.2.12 the signature of the ASNT Technical Services Manager at the time the wallet card was issued; and
- 10.3.3 In no case shall an individual sign their own certification documents. The CMC Chairman or Technical Services Manager shall have the authority to sign these documents.

## 11.0 Certification Validity

- 11.1 ACCP certification shall remain valid for a period not to exceed five years. At the end of the first 5-year period after examination, certificates may be renewed by points as described in paragraph 12. At the end of the tenth year after examination certificates must be renewed by examination as described in paragraph 13. For certifications issued via a 3rd-party agreement, the renewal/recertification of the 3rd-party certification may be accepted as proof of renewal provided the 3rd-party requirements meet or exceed the ACCP requirements and have been approved by the CMC.

- 11.2 Certifications that are not renewed shall be considered expired and the certificate holder will be required to retake all initial certification examinations to regain ACCP certification.
- 11.3 New validation periods shall be for a period of five years from the current expiration date unless renewal is tied to other expiration dates based on agreements with other third-party certification bodies. In no case shall a single certification period exceed five (5) years.
- 11.4 If a significant interruption of continued satisfactory work activity in that period of validity occurs, the applicant shall be required to recertify as detailed in paragraph 12.

"Significant interruption" is defined as:

- 11.4.1 A time period greater than the sum of an individual's NDT experience at all levels of qualification in the method;
  - 11.4.2 A time period greater than 12 of the last 24 months; or
  - 11.4.3 A time period greater than 36 of the last 60 months.
- 11.5 Certification shall be ruled invalid if:
    - 11.5.1 the CMC finds after reviewing evidence that the individual has violated the applicable code of ethics, and
    - 11.5.2 the individual does not satisfy the annual near-distance vision examination requirement in paragraph 7.9. Failure to comply with these vision requirements may cause revocation of ACCP certification.
  - 11.6 If ACCP certification is revoked, the ACCP certificate and wallet card must be returned to ASNT.
  - 11.7 Employer or responsible agency authorization (see paragraphs 2.9 and 10.2) shall expire when employment with that company or agency is terminated.

## 12.0 **Renewal by Points**

At the 5-year interval after certifying by examination and at 10-year intervals thereafter, certificate holders may renew their certifications by submitting the appropriate ACCP Renewal application and fees to ASNT. Applications may be submitted as early as six (6) months **prior** to the earliest certification expiration date and must be received no later than two (2) months **prior** to the expiration date. The completed application must satisfy the renewal requirements shown in Appendix A for the applicable test method and level of qualification for which renewal by points is sought.

Personnel that do not meet the ACCP requirement for renewal by points, or at the option of the certificate holder, may renew by taking the abbreviated examination (paragraph 13) in place of renewal by points.

ACCP certificates renewed by points shall have new expiration dates set for five years from the current expiration date.

### 13.0 **Renewal by Examination**

At the 10-year interval after certifying by examination and at 10-year intervals thereafter, certificate holders are required to renew by abbreviated examination. Renewal by examination requires submittal of a completed renewal by examination application and fees to ASNT and may be submitted not less than (3) months and up to nine (9) months prior to the applicant's current expiration date.

Examinations must be scheduled so that all renewal requirements have been met prior to the applicant's expiration date. The completed application must satisfy the renewal by examination requirements shown in Appendix A for the applicable test method and level of qualification for which recertification is sought.

ACCP certificates renewed by examination within six months of the current examination date shall have new expiration dates set for five years from the current expiration date. If re-examination occurs more than six months prior to the current examination date, the new expiration date shall be 5 years from the examination date.

### 14.0 **Documentation**

14.1 The CMC shall maintain and publish at least annually, by suitable means, a list of all certified individuals including the level of certification, Industrial Sectors and NDT methods or techniques for which certification is held.

14.2 A file shall be maintained for each individual certified, for each applicant who has not obtained certification, and for each individual who has had certification revoked, suspended, or terminated containing:

14.2.1 completed application forms;

14.2.2 examination documents including, but not limited to, answer sheets, identification of specimens, and results of examinations;

14.2.3 renewal and recertification documents including evidence of having met all renewal and recertification requirements (as applicable); and

14.2.4 reasons for any withdrawal or suspension of certification and details of any other penalties.

14.3 All individual certification files shall be considered confidential and shall be maintained in a secure location and for a duration in accordance with approved CMC operating procedures.

## 15.0 **Applicant Rights**

Appeals, Complaints, and Disputes: An appeals process exists for the resolution of appeals, complaints, and disputes received from candidates, certified persons, their employers and other parties regarding the certification process, qualification criteria, or the performance of certified persons.

Confidentiality: Information gained in the course of the certification process shall not be disclosed to any third party except as required by law.

## 16.0 **Program Change Notification**

Changes to the ASNT Central Certification Program (ACCP) are posted on the ASNT Internet website, at [www.asnt.org](http://www.asnt.org) under the “Certification” link, and are published in the ASNT monthly periodical, *Materials Evaluation* magazine.

## 17.0 **Accommodation for Disabilities**

ASNT will make appropriate accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Candidates should contact the ASNT Technical Services Department prior to examination dates to arrange special accommodations.

## **ASNT NDT PROGRAM RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **ASNT NDT/PdM Level III Certification**

The period of certificate validity is 60 months from date of issue, ending on the last day of the expiration month shown on the wallet card and certificate. Renewal of ASNT NDT Level III personnel is intended to apply only to individuals who maintain continued active employment in NDT Level III functions and demonstrate efforts to keep abreast of the technology in the Method(s) for which Renewal is sought. Renewal may be by re-examination or by application subject to the following conditions. Each applicant:

1. Must submit the appropriate ASNT Renewal application and fees;
2. Must reaffirm the ASNT Level III Code of Ethics;
3. Must submit evidence of satisfactory near visual acuity (Jaeger J-2 or equivalent) and color perception. If a color deficiency exists, applicants must send documented proof that they can discern indications in the applicable test methods. The method of documentation should be described in the employer's written practice;
4. Shall affirm continued active employment in Level III functions as related to the NDT Method(s) for which renewal is sought as noted below:
  - a) Such employment must have covered at least 36 months during the current valid Certification period but not necessarily 36 consecutive months. There shall be no break greater than 12 consecutive months.
  - b) At least 12 of the 24 months immediately preceding the expiration of the Certification must have been spent in Level III functions.
  - c) If work experience during the certification period did not include all Methods for which Renewal is sought, at least **two** additional points shall be obtained in each Method for which there was no work experience.

The effort to keep up to-date, contribute to knowledge or maintain continued growth in the Method(s) for which the individual is certified or to expand knowledge in related technologies must be demonstrated by obtaining a minimum of 25 points during the five (5) year period of certification by engaging in the activities listed in Table 1.

### **ACCP Professional Level III Certification**

The period of certificate validity is 60 months from date of issue, ending on the last day of the expiration month shown on the wallet card and certificate. At the first 5-year interval after being certified by examination (or if applicants came into the ACCP based on holding another third-party NDT certification), applicants may renew their certification(s) by points by meeting all of the requirements listed under the ASNT NDT Level III renewal requirements (above). Renewal by examination may be done instead of renewal by points at the request of the applicant.

At the 5-year interval after renewal, applicants must renew by examination by meeting all of the requirements listed under the ASNT NDT Level III renewal requirements listed above with the exception that an abbreviated renewal examination is required in lieu of points. The written renewal examination shall consist of 10 questions on certification programs and 20 questions per test method covering the application of that test method.

Personnel who gained ACCP Level III certification based on certification(s) issued by an accredited 3rd-party NDT certification program that has renewal/recertification requirements that meet or exceed ACCP requirements may renew their ACCP by submitting the documentation listed in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4(a) & (b) above, a copy of their current 3rd-party NDT certificates for the applicable test methods and a current Jaeger J1 (or equivalent) near vision and color perception eye tests.

### **ACCP Level II Certification**

The period of certificate validity for all ACCP Level II certificates except those VT certificates issued through the AWS/ACCP agreement is 60 months from date of issue ending on the last day of the expiration month shown on the wallet card and certificate. AWS/ACCP VT certificates, denoted with VT\* on the wallet card and certificate, expire on the date of the certificate holder's current CWI or SCWI certification.

ACCP Level II certificate holders that received ACCP certification by examination may renew their certification(s) at the 5-year interval (and at 10-year intervals thereafter) by meeting the following requirements:

5. Submit the appropriate ASNT recertification application and fees;
6. Re-affirm the ASNT Level II Code of Ethics;
7. Submit current (within 12 months) evidence of satisfactory near visual acuity (Jaeger J1 or equivalent) and color perception. If a color deficiency exists, applicants must send documented proof that they can discern indications in the applicable test methods. The method of documentation should be described in the employer's written practice;
8. Affirm continued active employment in Level II functions as related to the NDT Method(s) for which renewal is sought in the following manner:
  - a1) Submit a letter from the employer affirming that the applicant has been actively employed in NDT and has been using the applicable test methods without significant interruption during the current 5-year certification period;

#### **OR**

- a2) Submit letters from two (2) third parties NDT users attesting that the applicant has satisfactorily performed NDT in the applicable test methods within the current certification period; and
- b) Demonstrate continued NDT involvement during the current five (5) year period of certification by submitting a minimum of 15 points in one or more of the activities listed in Table 1.

ACCP Level II certificate holders that received ACCP certification by examination must renew by examination at the 10-year interval after initial examination (and at 10-year intervals thereafter) by submitting the information detailed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above and must pass an abbreviated practical renewal examination in place of submitting renewal points. The renewal examination will consist of a hands-on practical examination of at least two ASNT test pieces per test method, with a minimum of one (1) test piece in each applicable test technique.

ACCP Level II certificate holders that attained ACCP certification by transitioning as SNT-TC-1A Level IIs must renew by examination at the first 5-year interval by submitting the information detailed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 and must take the renewal examination described above. After this renewal, these personnel will follow the 5-year renewal by points/10-year renewal by examination cycle as described previously.

### **AWS Agreement**

Personnel who received their ACCP Level II VT certification through the AWS/ASNT agreement (designated on the certificate and wallet card by **VT\***) have ACCP expiration dates that match their current AWS CWI or SCWI certificates. These personnel may renew their ACCP VT certification by application when their current CWI/SCWI certification expires. Submittal of a renewed CWI or SCWI certificate shall be considered proof of qualification but applicants must also submit the information detailed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above.

**RENEWAL** may be done at the 3- and 6-year interval in this manner.

At the end of the ninth year of ACCP certification, the CWI/ACCP certificate holder must renew by examination by submitting a renewed CWI or SCWI certificate, the information detailed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above, and must take the abbreviated ACCP VT Level II renewal examination. CWI/SCWI personnel who can document the successful completion of the AWS CWI 9-year Practical examination within that current certification period may use that examination in lieu of taking the ACCP renewal examination.

If the AWS 9-year recertification Practical examination is taken prior to the ninth year of ACCP certification, the AWS examination shall be considered ACCP renewal by examination instead of renewal by points.

### **Third-Party Level II certificate holders**

Personnel who gained ACCP Level II certification based on certification(s) issued by an accredited 3rd-party NDT certification program that has renewal/recertification requirements that meet or exceed ACCP requirements may renew by submitting the documentation listed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above along with a copy of their current 3rd-party NDT certificate(s) for the applicable test methods.

Renewal by examination can be requested by the applicant at any time subject to the following conditions:

- Applicants, at any time prior to the expiration date of any valid ASNT Certification, may apply to ASNT for examination in any Method(s) of NDT for which examinations are then offered by ASNT.
- If such examination(s) are taken before the expiration date and successfully passed in Methods for which the individual currently holds a valid Certification, the process is considered to be renewal by examination for the purpose of fees and documentation.
- Failure to successfully renew prior the current ACCP expiration date will require that the applicant recertify by full examination as a new examinee.

ASNT will make every effort to furnish the necessary forms for Renewal by application prior to the expiration of valid certifications. However, *ASNT will not assume any responsibility for the applicant's failure to notify the ASNT Technical Services Department of any changes in address*. ASNT shall not be responsible for the failure of any correspondence concerning Certification to reach the individual.

**If you have not received the Renewal forms at least 4 months prior to your expiration date, forms may be requested from the ASNT Technical Services Department or may be downloaded from the Certification pages on the ASNT website at**

<http://www.asnt.org/certification/certification.htm>.

**TABLE 1: ASNT RENEWAL POINTS**

The following NDT-related activities may be used to accumulate points to be used for renewal of ASNT NDT certifications. All points must be earned within the last 5-year certification period.

	Activity	Point value	Maximum points allowed per certification period
A	Teaching of NDT courses: a) for which academic credit or IACET accredited CEUs ARE given:	1 point per 2 contact hours	16
	b) for which academic credit or IACET accredited CEUs are NOT given:	1 point per 2 contact hours	10
<b><i>A maximum of 16 points may be claimed in this category.</i></b>			
B	Additional classroom or computer-based NDT training. ( <i>Documentation must include number of contact hours and verification of successful completion.</i> )	1 point per 4 contact hours	10
C	Authoring or co-authoring technical NDT presentations at local technical society* or national meetings*. ( <i>To receive credit, the individual must have contributed at least 50 percent of the content.</i> )	2 points per initial presentation	8
D	Attending technical sessions, seminars or panels at local ASNT Section or at NDT-related national meetings*.	1 point per 3 contact hours	10
E	Preparing and publishing an original NDT-related peer reviewed paper or full article* in a technical society publication*. To receive credit, the individual must have contributed at least 20 percent of the content.	3 points per paper or full article	12
F	Authoring short technical tips in the ASNT TNT Newsletter or other NDT-related technical publication	1 point per published Tip	6
G	Development and technical review of ASNT publications*	3 points per completed project	15
H	Documented NDT contributions to NDT-related technical society committee projects.	2 points per completed project	12
I	Other non-ASNT third party technical certifications such as CWI, API, NACE, ASQ, etc.	1 pt per cert	5
J	Membership in the American Society for Nondestructive Testing	1 point per year	5
K	Serving as ASNT trained Monitor or Assistant Monitor at ASNT examinations	1 point per 1/2-day session	6
L	Performance of external NDT audits*	2 per audit	8
M	Receiving a patent* for an NDT related product	4 per patent	12

\* See definitions

## INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POINT SYSTEM FOR RENEWAL

1. ASNT Level III Refresher Courses, accredited CEU courses, college courses, corporate training department courses and courses of similar quality leading to examinations do qualify for renewal points, provided they contribute to knowledge and growth at or above the qualification level (Level II or III) in the methods in which the applicant is certified, or are NDT-related (e.g. math, physical science, QC, etc.), or cover advanced NDT material.
2. Time spent taking examinations of any kind do **NOT** qualify for renewal points.
3. Acting as a Session Chairman at a Society meeting, or as a Section Officer, National Officer, Council, or Committee Chairman does **NOT** qualify for points; these are not technical functions. The only exception is for participation in technical society meetings whose primary function was to accomplish a significant technical (not administrative) project. Such projects must meet the requirements for Activity H in Table 1.
4. Test procedures, QC manuals, etc. prepared for employers do not qualify for points; they are considered as part of an applicant's occupational or work experience.
5. To earn points for attendance at technical sessions, documentation of attendance at the actual technical presentations must be submitted. Proving general attendance at the conference is not sufficient. At all ASNT Conferences, forms for documenting attendance are provided at each technical session; have them signed by the session chairperson and submit copies of them with the application for recertification.
6. Reports prepared for employers do not qualify for points unless and until they are given as a technical presentation or published per Activities C or F in Table 1.
7. Passing mathematics or physical science courses in connection with a college degree program qualifies for points, but it is the applicant's responsibility to document the contact hours in order to receive the point credit.
8. Certificates of completion for courses must show either contact hours or **CEUs**. It is up to the applicant to supply suitable documentation showing such hours or **CEUs**. One CEU equals 10 contact hours and is equivalent to 2.5 ASNT recertification points.
9. Providing the name of a person who can verify points is not satisfactory documentation. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide hard copy, i.e., documentation with the attesting person's signature.
10. To count for points, papers must be published in a technical society journal or official society publication. Publications which are not generally available to the public, such as company or governmental meetings or reports, are not acceptable. Similarly, talks given at meetings not open to the public do not earn points.
11. In general, the type of point documentation is the same as that needed to satisfy a strict QA/QC auditor. The ASNT Certification Program records are audited annually and must show strict compliance with the above rules and procedures, so full compliance is required of **all** applicants, including proper documentation. In case of doubt about the suitability of documentation or whether points should be awarded, the final decision rests with the Certification Management Council.

## DEFINITIONS

**Committee Projects:** Specific identifiable official activities of the national technical societies such as round-robin or individual studies, preparation of guidelines, appendices, specifications, recommended practices, codes or standards, etc., may qualify. Documentation may include memo or letter reports, drafts of committee output documents, or major written comments on documents. Verbal comments, attendance at meetings, or return ballots without major comments do not qualify.

**External NDT Audit:** An NDT audit of a facility other than that of the auditor's place of employment such as NDT vendor or supplier audits.

**Full Article:** A full article is one of 1000 words or more at the time of publication.

**National Meetings:** Meetings, conferences, symposia, seminars, panels, etc., organized or sponsored by a national technical society or societies and advertised nationally. Regional conferences may qualify if they meet the above criteria. Trade shows and trade association meetings do not qualify. Closed meetings, i.e., those with attendance or notification restricted to certain groups, do not qualify. Foreign or international meetings qualify if the sponsor(s) are national or international and the attendance is not restricted.

**Patents:** Patents shall be those issued by the U.S. Patent Office or equivalent non-US governmental agency.

**Publication Development and Review:** Authoring or co-authoring technical publications or performing technical reviews for the ASNT Publications Department. Completion of full drafts of one chapter of an ASNT NDT Handbook or partial drafts of smaller publications as requested by the Publications Department are considered to be completed assignments. Submittal of major written comments when reviewing text revisions as requested by the Publications Department is considered to be a completed assignment. Written or e-mail acknowledgement of receipt of such materials by the Publications Department will serve as documentation of completion of an assignment.

**Technical Society:** A not-for-profit society representing a segment of industry in an NDT-related field or representing an industry that is an NDT user.

**Technical Society Publications:** The publications of national technical societies qualify. Foreign or international technical journals also qualify.