

ASNT NDT Level III Program

1. Scope

- 1.1. It is recognized that the effectiveness of nondestructive testing (NDT) and predictive maintenance (PdM) applications depends upon the capabilities of the personnel who are responsible for, and perform, NDT or PdM. The ASNT Level III program provides third-party certification for NDT or PdM personnel whose specific jobs require appropriate knowledge of the technical principles underlying the tests they perform, witness, monitor, or evaluate.
- 1.2. This document establishes the system for ASNT Level III certification in nondestructive testing and predictive maintenance in accordance with *Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A*. Certification under this system results in the issuance of an ASNT certificate attesting to the fact that the certificate holder has met the published guidelines for the Basic and Method examinations as detailed in *Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A*.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 *ASNT certification*: The process whereby ASNT certifies that an individual has met the basic and method examination guidelines of *Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A*.
- 2.2 *ASNT NDT Level III*: An individual who, having passed ASNT administered Basic and Method(s) Examinations, holds a current, valid ASNT Level III certificate in at least one method.
- 2.3 *Certification*: Written testimony of qualification.
- 2.4 *Employer*: the corporate, private, or public entity that employs personnel for wages or salary, and is responsible for authorizing personnel to perform NDT or PdM.
- 2.5 *Examination, NDT Basic*: a Level III written examination of knowledge of materials science and processes technology, NDT personnel qualification and certification, and the basic principles of NDT methods.
- 2.6 *Examination, PdM Basic*: a Level III written examination of knowledge of machinery technology, PdM personnel qualification and certification, and the basic principles of PdM methods.
- 2.7 *Examination, Method*: a Level III written examination on the principles, theory, techniques and applications within an NDT/PdM method.
- 2.8 *Examination, Specific*: an examination on specifications, equipment, techniques and procedures applicable to the employer's product(s) and methods.
- 2.9 *Experience*: work activities accomplished in the applicable NDT/PdM method under the direction of qualified supervision, including the performance of the method and related activities but not including time spent in organized training programs.
- 2.10 *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

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- 2.11 Recertification: The process of extending one's certification after the initial period of validity, and maintaining certification for a specified period thereafter.
- 2.12 Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A: The NDT Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing document providing the guidelines for the establishment of qualification and certification programs for NDT.
- 2.13 Training: an organized program developed to impart the knowledge and skills necessary for qualification.

3. Certification Outcome

- 3.1 An ASNT Level III certificate holder shall have the skills and knowledge to establish techniques, to interpret codes, standards, and specifications, and to prepare or approve procedures and instructions.
- 3.2 An ASNT NDT Level III shall also have general familiarity with other nondestructive testing methods, shall be capable of conducting or directing the training and examination of testing personnel in the methods for which the ASNT Level III is qualified and 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.
- 3.3 An ASNT PdM Level III shall also have general familiarity with other predictive maintenance methods, shall be capable of conducting or directing the training and examination of testing personnel in the methods for which the ASNT Level III is qualified and shall have knowledge of applicable machinery technology in order to establish techniques and to assist in establishing acceptance criteria when none are otherwise available.

4. Eligibility for Examination

- 4.1. ASNT has no restrictions relative to the gender, creed, race or nationality of applicants.
- 4.2. Candidates shall have a combination of education and experience in accordance with the guidelines in *Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A*.
- 4.3. When applying for examination(s), the candidate shall document the validity of the personal information requested, including education and experience needed to establish eligibility.
- 4.4. The Candidate shall agree to abide by the code of ethics for ASNT Level III personnel.
- 4.5. A maximum of three (3) examinations in any Method or the Basic examination is permitted within a two (2) year period.
 - 4.6.1 A candidate that fails the initial basic or Method examination shall not be permitted to retake the examination for thirty (30) days from the date of failure.

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- 4.6.2 A candidate that fails the basic or Method examination for a second (2nd) time shall not be permitted to retake the examination for ninety (90) days from the date of failure.
- 4.6.3 A candidate that fails the basic or Method examination for a third (3rd) time shall not be permitted to retake the examination for one (1) year from the date of failure and must reapply as a new candidate. In no case, shall an individual be permitted to sit for an examination more than three (3) times in a two (2) year period.

5. Qualification Examinations

5.1 Eligibility. All ASNT Level III Candidates must successfully complete both:

- 5.1.1 a *Basic* Examination, regardless of the method(s) for which the candidate seeks certification; and
- 5.1.2 a *Method* Examination, which is given at the candidates request, in one or more of 11 different NDT methods, or two PdM methods.

5.2 Examination Descriptions

5.2.1 *NDT Basic Examination*: This written examination consists of 135 questions that assess the candidate's knowledge of:

- 5.2.1.1 other NDT methods as required for ASNT Level II personnel;
- 5.2.1.2 materials, fabrication, and product technology; and
- 5.2.1.3 qualification and certification according to the ASNT, *SNT-TC-1A*, and *ANSI/ASNT CP-189*, latest edition.

5.2.2 *PdM Basic Examination*: This written examination consists of 90 questions that assess the candidate's knowledge of:

- 5.2.2.1 other PdM methods as required for ASNT Level II personnel;
- 5.2.2.2 applicable machinery technology; and
- 5.2.2.3 qualification and certification according to the ASNT, *SNT-TC-1A*, and *ANSI/ASNT CP-189*, latest edition.

5.2.3 *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. The Method Examination may include a portion that examines the candidate's ability to comprehend a specification and apply its requirements.

5.3 NDT/PdM or PdM/NDT Conversion

5.3.1 Personnel with currently valid NDT certificates in Methods for which PdM certification is available may attain PdM Certification in those Methods by successfully completing the PdM Basic examination.

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5.3.2 Personnel with currently valid PdM certificates may attain NDT Certification in those Methods by successfully completing the NDT Basic examination.

5.4 Employer Responsibility

5.4.1 Additional, specific examinations may be required by employers, customers or other bodies. Examinations for specialized NDT/PdM techniques or unique product forms are the responsibility of the employer and are outside the scope of this document.

5.5 Examination Grading.

5.5.1 The grading of qualification examinations shall be done by ASNT Technical Services staff in accordance with nationally accepted psychometric principles.

6. Examination Results

6.1. Candidates that successfully pass all required examinations for ASNT certification, shall be issued certification documents as described in 10.0, *Certification*.

6.2. Candidates that do not pass all required examinations for ASNT certification will be sent written notification of their results and may reapply to retake the failed examinations.

6.3. For employers wishing to use ASNT as a third-party examination source for the purpose of adding Methods for in-house Level III personnel, examination results will be sent by letter only. No certificate will be issued.

6.4. Notification of results will be sent to each candidate within thirty (30) business days from the date of the examination.

7. Certification

7.1. Based on successful completion of the necessary qualification examinations, ASNT will issue the candidate an ASNT certificate and wallet card.

7.2. ASNT certification attests to an individual having satisfied the requirements for the Basic and Method examinations as detailed in *Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A*. This does not constitute license or authorization to perform NDT or PdM, as the employer has the sole responsibility for authorizing employees to perform NDT/PdM. The employer, through a Level III, or other designated person as denoted in the employer's written practice, should review the individual's qualification records for satisfactory completeness prior to authorizing the individual to perform NDT or PdM. These records shall be retained as specified in *Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A*.

7.3. ASNT NDT and PdM Level III certificates and wallet cards remain the property of ASNT and shall be surrendered to ASNT on demand.

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8. Validity

- 8.1. Initial certification shall be valid for a period of (5) years, with the certification period to start on the date that a candidate successfully passes both the Basic and Method examinations.
 - 8.1.1. When the Basic examination is passed, that result shall remain valid for a period of 5 years from the examination date. If the Method examination is not passed within that period, the Basic examination must be retaken.
 - 8.1.2. When the Method examination is passed, that result shall remain valid for a period of 2 years from the examination date. If the Basic examination is not passed within that period, the Method examination must be retaken.
- 8.2. Certification shall be revoked if ASNT determines that an ASNT certificate holder has violated the ASNT Level III code of ethics.

9. Recertification

- 9.1. Recertification is required at five (5) year intervals in order to extend certification beyond the initial or previous period of validity.
- 9.2. Certified individuals may recertify in one of the following two ways:
 - 9.2.1. By examination, prior to expiration of certification in the applicable method. The Basic examination does not have to be taken again as long as certification is continuously maintained; or
 - 9.2.2. By application through points, demonstrating a combination of active employment and continuing participation/education in NDT/PdM.
- 9.3. Personnel that attempt renewal by examination and fail an examination may not renew by points in that test method until the examination has been passed.

10. Applicant Rights

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. Confidentiality: Information gained in the course of the certification process shall not be disclosed to any third party except as required by law.

11. Program Changes

Changes to the ASNT Level III program are posted on the ASNT Internet website, at www.asnt.org under the “Certification” link, and notification of changes will be published in the ASNT monthly periodical, *Materials Evaluation* magazine.

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12. 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.