

1.12.4. THIRD PART TECHNICAL SUPPORT EXPERIENCE ON THE QUALIFICATION OF THE INSPECTION SYSTEMS USED IN THE SPANISH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS PROJECT DEVELOPED BY UNESA

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Qualification of an NDT inspection process is defined as the systematic evaluation of all the elements that act in the inspection system (methods and techniques of testing, personnel, procedures equipments, and so on) to assure that, in real conditions, all of them accomplish with the previously fixed qualification objectives.

The qualification concept was born at the end of the 70's in programmes such as the Plate Inspectorate Steering Committee, named afterwards Programme for the Inspection of Steel Components (in both cases PISC), with the phases I, II and III, to determine the confidence degree on the NDT techniques used in the Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in service inspections (ISI) applying ASME Code Section XI criteria. Other initiatives followed such as the one development in the USA by the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI), that manages the Performance Demonstration Initiative (PDI) or, in Europe, the "European Methodology for Inspection Qualification" document prepared by the European Network for Inspection Qualification (ENIQ).

In Spain, UNESA (Spanish Electricity Industry Association) has developed the "Methodology for the Qualification of NDT Systems used in the ISI at the Spanish NPP".

The Spanish nuclear regulatory body (CSN) has approved this methodology known as UNESA CEX-120 rev. 2.

This paper presents the experience gained, until now, by the Spanish Association for NDT (AEND) with its participation in the Project managed by UNESA on the Spanish NPP NDT-ISI qualification, as well as to point out the importance of the technical support brought by the third part organizations, that implies the total independency of any particular interest among the different participants in such a project (owner, power plant, inspection enterprise, etc).