

5.1.14. IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCT QUALITY THROUGH EVALUATION OF NDT PERSONNEL COMPETENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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Starting from 1992, on the initiative of the Belorussian Association for NDT and TD (BA NDT&TD), such directions of works in the NDT field as personnel certification began to develop, and namely: introduction of European Standard EN 473 “Non-destructive testing. Qualification and certification of NDT personnel. General principles” as a national standard; creation of training centers on various NDT methods; accreditation of personnel certification body operating under scientific and methodological management of BA NDT&TD by the German accrediting body TGA and subsequently, by Gosstandard of the Republic of Belarus in 1996.

In May 2005, EC notified body represented by the Welding Research Institute of the Slovak Republic has signed with the Belorussian State Institute on Qualification Improvement (BSIQI) in composition including the Body on Certification of Products (BCP) an agreement on standardization, metrology and quality control providing recognition of BCP as an examination center to perform personnel certification for compliance with requirements of EN 473 and Directive 97/23/EC “Pressure Equipment”.

Presently, normative and technical support of NDT personnel certification is presented by the following technical, normative and legal acts:

- the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On evaluation of compliance with requirements of normative and legal acts in the field of technical rate setting and standardization”; under this Law, professional competence of personnel in performing of certain works, services (including ones on NDT) is the subject of compliance evaluation;
- Technical Code of established practice TCP 5.1.06–2004 “National System of the Republic of Belarus for conformity confirmation. Procedure of personnel competence certification. General provisions”;
- STB EN 473–2005 “Qualification and certification of NDT personnel. General technical requirements”.

Furthermore, international standard ISO/IEC 17024 “Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons” is adopted as national standard.

6 training centers operate in the Republic of Belarus, which carry out training of NDT specialists in the purpose of certification. By now, more than 7,500 NDT specialists from Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are certified.

Following directions of the development of works in the NDT field are considered by us as prospective ones:

1. Introduction of European and international standards on personnel certification. Introduction of international standards must become the basis for recognition of personnel certifying bodies and certification schemes at international level.
2. Extension of NDT methods, types of production sectors and certification schemes in various national economy branches, including civil engineering.
3. Improvement and adjustment of educational programs for specialists training taking into account computerization of the modern NDT means and development of modern NDT technologies.
4. Development of works on personnel certification for compliance with requirements of the Directive 97/23/EC.

Article 13, Annex 4 of the said Directive specifies requirements to NDT personnel certification, which will be implemented through adoption in the Republic of Belarus of the Technical Regulations “Safety of Pressure Equipment”.