

Individuals certified within the PCN Scheme must recognise that personal integrity and professional competence are the fundamental principles on which their testing activities are founded. Consequently, it is required that all PCN-certified non-destructive testing (NDT) personnel subscribe to a 'Code of Ethics' designed to protect the integrity of any NDT processes and inspections in which they may become involved.

The integrity of NDT and condition monitoring (CM) processes and the people performing those processes is a fundamental requirement in ensuring that the inspections performed remain at the highest possible level in terms of quality and reliability. Consequently, BINDT and industry at large expect all PCN-certified NDT and CM personnel to conduct themselves in an ethical and morally acceptable manner at all times whilst performing their NDT/CM duties.

It is a condition of PCN certification that certificate holders are expected, as a minimum, to understand, acknowledge and abide by this Code of Ethics and the principles contained herein. It is a requirement that all PCN applicants and certificate holders confirm, by signature below, that they have read, understood and acknowledged this Code of Ethics and hereby agree to abide by it at all times whilst engaged in PCN-certified NDT and/or CM activities.

By signing below, PCN applicants and certificate holders undertake to:

1. Comply with this Code of Ethics;
2. Apply themselves correctly and to maintain high levels of integrity, honesty, skill and proficiency in the conducting of NDT;
3. Undertake only those NDT assignments for which they are competent by virtue of their training, qualification and experience, *ie* to only perform inspections commensurate with their level of certification in the applicable test disciplines;
4. Perform all inspections to the best of their ability at all times and to resist any outside pressures that they consider may have the potential to affect the integrity, honesty, quality or outcome of any testing performed. Any such undue pressures should be reported to the employing management/supervision and BINDT;
5. Only sign documents for work of which they have personal professional knowledge and/or direct supervisory control;
6. Engage, or advise the engagement of, such specialists as are required to enable assignments to be properly completed;
7. Conduct themselves in a responsible manner and utilise fair and equitable business practices in dealing with colleagues, clients and associates;
8. At all times, be aware of and uphold the provisions/requirements of codes, regulations and standards under which they are working;
9. Immediately report to their supervisor/employer any perceived violation(s) of codes, regulations or standards. In the event that their supervisor/employer provides no satisfactory explanation or takes no corrective action, the certified individual shall report the situation directly to BINDT;
10. Perform their professional duties with proper regard for the physical environment and the safety, health and wellbeing of the public;
11. Protect, to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the wellbeing of the public and the provisions of this Code of Ethics, any information given to them in confidence by an employer, colleague or member of the public;
12. Avoid conflicts of interest with the employer or client, but when unavoidable, forthwith disclose the circumstances to the employer or client;
13. Strive to maintain their proficiency by updating their technical knowledge as required to properly practice NDT in the certified methods and levels;
14. Indicate to the employer or client any adverse consequences which may result from an overruling of their technical judgement by a non-technical authority;
15. Not falsify nor permit misrepresentation of their own or their associates' academic or professional qualifications, training, experience or work responsibilities;
16. Refrain from making unjustified statements or from performing unethical acts which would discredit the PCN Scheme;
17. Immediately report to BINDT any perceived or known fraudulent use of PCN certification, including the use of forged or false PCN certification;
18. Immediately report to BINDT any perceived violation(s) of this Code of Ethics;
19. Immediately report to BINDT any attempt to pressure or force an individual certified under the PCN Scheme to violate this Code of Ethics;
20. Inform their employer in the event that their PCN certificate is suspended, cancelled or withdrawn.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Failure to comply with the above Code of Ethics will be dealt with under arrangements for handling complaints and appeals (see PCN24/CP21).

**REMINDER:** PCN certificate holders are reminded that they should be aware of the consequences that may arise from any failure to comply with this Code of Ethics, including the consequences of in-service failures and any ongoing effect on the health and safety of persons, plant, equipment and the environment.

*The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing is an accredited Certification Body offering personnel and quality management systems assessment and certification against criteria set out in international and European standards through the PCN Certification Scheme.*

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