



**Specific Accreditation Guidance  
Infrastructure and Asset Integrity**

**Purchasing NDT test specimen services**

**January 2018**



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# Purchasing NDT test specimen services

## 1. Introduction

NDT test specimen audits is a unique process and differs fundamentally from traditional Proficiency Testing. This document provides guidance in relation to the purchase of test specimen audit services, in order to increase the likelihood that such services will be fit for purpose.

## 2. Test specimen audits

- 2.1. Test specimen audits involve provision of a test specimen with one or more known defects. The requesting facility should first establish that the provider holds specimens which are suitable to the particular test method/technique which is sought and any configuration requirements (such as weld type).
- 2.2. The provider will have some form of marking scheme and so the facility should specify the test standard and acceptance code/standard to which compliance is to be established or, alternatively, ensure that the provider is able to provide instructions which are relevant to the engineering sector within which the facility operates.
- 2.3. An effective test specimen audit will take into account the accuracy of discontinuity sizing, location and classification, false calls and missed defects for each test specimen. Also, to ensure the exercise provides an assessment of compliance with the nominated codes, rather than the simply the defect detection capability of a single operator, a provider should be selected that will undertake to assess the facility's completed test records (e.g. worksheets, viewing sheets, radiograph etc.) and the test report with respect to both the test standard and compliance code/standard.

**Note:** As a point of comparison, the AINDT practical examination process requires at least 70% for a satisfactory result and any reportable defect missed constitutes automatic failure. The result also includes marks for each recording and reporting element.

- 2.4. The facility may wish to additionally ensure that the test specimens to be supplied have been robustly validated and, in the case of penetrant specimens, are subject to appropriate cleaning protocols (such as an ultrasonic cleaning bath).

## AMENDMENT TABLE

The table below provides a summary of changes made to the document with this issue.

Section	Amendment
New Document	