



MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE, DE L'ÉNERGIE,
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET DE LA MER
en charge des Technologies vertes et des Négociations sur le climat

Direction générale de l'aviation civile

Paris, le 15 SEP. 2010

Direction de la sécurité de l'Aviation civile

Le directeur adjoint

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Référence : /DSAC/D

Registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Dear Sir,

You made a request to the DGAC services under my supervision for the COSAC (Aerospace Sectoral Committee of Certification) to be recognized by the French Authorities as the National Committee for the certification of the personnel in charge of non-destructive testing (NDT) for aircraft and/or aircraft components continuing airworthiness ("The National Aerospace NDT Board") under the framework of French standard NF EN 4179.

The elements related to the conditions of this approval are explained below:

1) The community rules regarding the aircraft airworthiness stipulate that non-destructive testing for aircraft and/or aircraft components continuing airworthiness shall be carried out by personnel certified according to a recognized standard.

It is the case in particular of paragraphs MA606 and 145A30 (*Personnel requirements*) of (EC) regulation No. 2042/2003 from the Commission dated November 20, 2003 regarding the continuing airworthiness of aircraft and aeronautical products, parts and appliances, and the approval of organizations and personnel involved in these tasks,

2) The standard NF EN 4179 is a standard recognized in compliance with the requirements of Point 1 above,

In particular, the decision dated November 28, 2003 from the Executive Director of the EASA (DECISION NO. 2003119/RM) indicates that, as part of acceptable means for compliance with the aforementioned requirements of paragraphs M.A.606 and 145.A.30, the applicable standard as indicated in these paragraphs is standard NF EN 4179.

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3) The standard NF EN 4179 (*NF LOO-100C (06/10)-Aerospace Series. Qualification and certification of personnel for Non-Destructive Testing*) establishes the minimum requirements for qualification and certification of personnel involved in non-destructive tests (NDT).

Moreover, it contains a paragraph 3.17 written as follows:

"3.17 - National aerospace NDT board (NANDTB). An independent national aerospace organization representing a nation's aerospace industry that is chartered by the participating prime contractors and recognized by the nation's regulatory agencies to provide or support NDT qualification and examination services in accordance with this standard."

4) From the documents related to the organization and status of the COSAC (Aerospace Sectoral Committee of Certification), it can be stated that it is a constituent part of the COFREND (French Confederation for the Non-Destructive testing), and one of its Sectoral Committee. The main purpose of the COSAC is to ensure the certification of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) operators in the aerospace sector. In this respect, the COSAC has supervised and managed since 1979 the certification of personnel in the most commonly used techniques of Non-Destructive Testing. The certifications are granted in compliance with the aforementioned European standard EN 4179.

5) The COFREND, to which the COSAC is answerable, is accredited by the COFRAC (French Committee for Accreditation) as an "accreditation body operating at the national level", in accordance with the provisions of Article 137 of Law No. 2008-776 of August 4, 2008 related to the modernization of economy, and designated as such by decree No. 2008-1401 of December 19, 2008 related to certification and evaluation of compliance issued for the purpose of Article 137 of Law No. 2008-776 of August 4, 2008 related to the modernization of economy.

Thus, the COFRAC is the only authority operating at the national level which is certified to deliver accreditation certificates to bodies involved in the evaluation of compliance. In this respect, the COFRAC is the Authority aimed at in paragraph 3.17 of Standard NF EN 4179 ("the nation's regulatory agencies").

On the basis of a set of objective factors of law or of fact, the COSAC, organization in charge of the certification of the personnel involved in the non-destructive testing in accordance with standard EN 4179 and accredited by the COFRAC, through the COFREND, to which the COSAC is answerable, meets all the criteria specified in the aforementioned paragraph 3.17.

Therefore, the COSAC, without needs for any further procedure, is considered as a national committee recognized by the French Authorities for the certification of the personnel in charge of non-destructive testing (NDT) for aircraft and/or aircraft components continuing airworthiness ("The National Aerospace NDT Board").

The COSAC will be presented as such by the Direction de la sécurité de l'Aviation civile (Civil Aviation Safety Authority), on the occasion of EASA standardization audits on the compliance with the regulation clauses related to the certification of the personnel in charge of non-destructive testing (NDT) of aircraft and/or aircraft components continuing airworthiness.

Hoping this letter will be to your satisfaction, yours sincerely.

Le Directeur Adjoint de la sécurité
de l'Aviation civile

Rémi JOUTY