

Ultrasonic testing – an explanation of certification categories

Various schemes exist around the world for certification in ultrasonic testing. There is currently no uniformity of certification categories in the schemes.

It is important therefore that clients and equipment inspectors check the suitability of the certification held by UT operators. Contract documents and specifications should mandate the use of operators certified in the correct category.

With respect to CBIP's Level 2 certifications, the practice will continue that certificates show the categories of welds included in the certification. For example, "Ultrasonic inspection Level 2b – Butt welds in plate and pipe" or "Ultrasonic inspection Level 2c – All configurations".

With respect to Level 3 certifications, CBIP will recognise overseas certifications at Level 3 only when they include the nozzle category, and CBIP will only issue Level 3 Certification to UT personnel whose certification categories include nozzle welds.

Clients and inspectors should also be aware that AINDT certifications use different categories, in that a certificate covering "Ultrasonic Inspection Level 2" includes constructional joints (T's and Y's) but does not include nozzles or nodes. These are specified on AINDT certificates as an endorsement e.g. "Ultrasonic Inspection Level 2 with Nozzle endorsement"