

Project Overview and Consultation Strategy

Project Name: Non-Destructive Testing Skills Project

Training Package: *MEM Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM)*

Introduction

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) released revised standards for non-destructive testing (NDT) (ISO 9712:2021) in January 2023. The ISO standards, which are internationally recognised benchmarks for various industries, have been adopted in Australia and underpin certification for NDT technicians. The release of the updated standards reflects changes in the areas of penetrant, magnetic particles, eddy current, ultrasonic testing, and radiographic testing at both the basic and advanced level, and thermography at the advanced level. As a result, there is a need to ensure that associated units of competency and qualifications in the *MEM Manufacturing and Engineering Training Package (MEM)* are updated to reflect current industry practice. Adapting the MEM units and qualifications to adhere to these standards guarantees that learners and workers possess skills that are aligned with contemporary manufacturing expectations.

Scope of the project

To remain relevant to current practice for certification of materials, products and structures through NDT testing, it is critical 19 units of competency for NDT (24 series) be updated as they are used extensively across both trade, post-trade and technician occupations. The revisions will reflect changes to the international standards, released in the Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of personnel (ISO 9712:2021). The project will also consider alignment of the units to the certification requirements for NDT technicians reflected in the Non-destructive testing – NDT training syllabuses (ISO/TS 25107:2019).

NDT technicians are the primary job role impacted by these changes but changes to units may also impact other occupations that perform NDT tests, such as welders.

Initial development

Website notification

Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance (Manufacturing Alliance) will publish the project commencement, consultation process, and feedback options on the website www.manufacturingalliance.org.au.

Establishment of Technical Committee

A Technical Committee will be established to provide expert advice, based on evidence, across educational and expert and/or technical knowledge to assist the design and development of training products. During the research and drafting phase, the Technical Committee will help to identify changes in job roles and pathway requirements and will assist in the functional and task analysis of job roles.

Members of the Technical Committee will also be briefed and asked for advice on technical issues and potential risks within the project and any stakeholders to add to the *Project Overview and Consultation Strategy*.

Notify Senior Responsible Officers, Assurance Body, and other Jobs and Skills Councils

A briefing will be sent to State/Territory Training Authorities with a request to identify key stakeholders within their jurisdiction and leverage any local industry engagement opportunities. All Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs) will be alerted of the project and those that import units being reviewed will be contacted to determine opportunities for involvement for both the JSC and their stakeholder networks.

Drafting process

Key stakeholders will be contacted in the initial project phase to provide an overview of the project and consultation arrangements, and to determine any risks or potential issues that may affect the project and possible mitigation strategies.

The initial research phase is used to undertake a functional and task analysis of the impact of changes from international standards. Developing a thorough understanding of the application of skills and knowledge in different work settings will provide a holistic view of job roles/occupations in different sectors.

For this project, stakeholders will be interviewed (over the phone or virtually) through face-to-face workshops convened prior to drafting the products. These activities will investigate:

- current job roles, skills, and knowledge including similarities and differences across roles
- current and emerging concepts, practices, and technologies in the field
- gaps in current training products and how changes to ISO standards impact different jobs roles
- types of employers of vocational education and training (VET) qualified personnel.

Public and Government Consultation

Release of draft training products

Consultation draft training products will be accessed via the NDT project page on the Manufacturing Alliance website with consultation dates and an explanation of the options for providing feedback.

The links [on the project web page](#) make all drafts publicly available to download for review and comment. The opening of consultation will be promoted through Manufacturing Alliance newsletters, email alerts and social media, and reminders will be sent via the same mechanisms during the four-week consultation period.

Undertake consultations

Stakeholder engagement and collaboration will be open, proactive, inclusive, fair, and transparent across industry and the VET system. Several mechanisms will be used to collect intelligence and feedback to inform the development process. These are designed to maximise participation opportunities and garner a comprehensive range of views and perspectives from stakeholders across Australia.

Feedback options include direct emails (with written feedback and/or attachments), attendance at webinars and forums, and phone calls.

Webinars and workshops will be undertaken during the public consultation phase to ensure the content that is drafted is accurate, relevant, and meets the needs of industry. These facilitated consultations give stakeholders an opportunity to discuss issues as a group and provide their feedback. This provides a rich source of information for training product development work and helps to determine general consensus between stakeholders and divergent views.

Webinars give the opportunity for a diverse range of stakeholders to discuss draft products, it also assists in maximising reach to rural and remote stakeholders. Commonwealth and state/territory government stakeholders, and their representatives, will be invited to participate in webinar discussions.

Face-to-face workshops will be held with key stakeholders to facilitate specialist feedback. These consultations allow for in-depth discussion on targeted topics that may be complex or where divergent views exist.

Maintain a Consultation Log

Throughout the development process, feedback will be captured in the project *Consultation Log*. Collated information will be analysed at key points to identify trends and diverse views presented to determine potential actions aimed at finding solutions. The solution will be developed through regular facilitated processes to gather advice from the Technical Committee, and where necessary other subject matter experts. Best efforts will be made to incorporate feedback to ensure the final product reflects a common shared view.

The *Consultation Log* will include a high-level summary of feedback received and will be published to the website at key points. It will include evidence of consultations, responses to feedback, and if relevant any dispute resolution, justification for feedback not incorporated, and issues not resolved.

Incorporating feedback

Determine revisions

The Technical Committee will provide advice on the final draft training products and a statement to this effect forms part of the submission of the final products to the Manufacturing Alliance Chief Executive Officer.

Additional consultation if required

Additional consultation may be undertaken to manage diverse viewpoints or if significant changes have been made to the training product as a result of public and government consultation. Timeframes for any additional consultation will reflect the scope and complexity of the proposed changes.

Provide justification

Justification will be provided where consultation feedback is not implemented or broad consensus from stakeholders can not be reached, along with reasons why issues cannot be resolved. Any impact on learners and employment outcomes will be clearly identified.

Dispute resolution

Where broad agreement cannot be achieved the Manufacturing Alliance will engage with all relevant stakeholders to facilitate an outcome.

Publication of training products

The completed and endorsed training products will be released and published on the National register of VET within 10 days of endorsement and notification of the release will be published on the Manufacturing Alliance website along with an email notifying all involved parties of their release. Details of the submission will also be published on the Manufacturing Alliance website.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholders from the following categories will be invited to engage throughout the development process:

- employers
- peak bodies/associations
- unions
- the Commonwealth, state and territory governments
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)
- educational experts
- learners and other interested stakeholders, as appropriate
- other Jobs and Skills Councils, as appropriate.

Please contact Chris Hudson 0478 488 256 chrish@manufacturingalliance.org.au for further details.