

Supplier Quality Alert (NDT Level III / Examiner Specific Exam)

Problem Statement

Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding (HII-NNS) and General Dynamics Electric Boat Corporation (GDEB) identified an opportunity to standardize and improve the overall consistency in how shipbuilding suppliers administer Level III / Examiner Specific Examinations to NDT Level III personnel.

All Level III / Examiners that perform work for HII-NNS and GDEB are required to pass a Level III / Examiner Specific Examination per NAVSEA T9074-AS-GIB-010/271. The current requirement allows for inherent variability with the quality of the exams as well as how they are administered.

Improvement Objective

A combined Government/Shipbuilder NDT Working Group determined administering a Level III / Examiner Specific Examination was required in order to improve supply base performance with the following considerations:

- Identified the benefits of utilizing a third party to administer a standardized Level III / NDT Specific Examination to the supply base.
- Administering the exam by a third party will accomplish the following:
 - Ensure the examination meets the highest standards and validates competencies of the Level III / Examiner
 - Add consistency & rigor to the examination administration process across the supply base
 - Provide a centralized database of certified Level III / Examiner personnel who have passed the examiner specific examination.
 - Eliminate the need for suppliers to administer a Level III / Examiner specific examination, saving time and money.
- The Level III / Examiner Specific Examination will be based on Revision 1 of NAVSEA T9074-AS-GIB-010/271
- This alert is intended to inform of an upcoming change that will be contractually flowed down in the near term

Important Information Related to the Application Process

All applicants will be required to complete an application which will be found on the ASNT website. The following are some key points to be aware of when filling out the application:

- Provide ASNT ID Number if previously certified by ASNT
- Provide documentation (signed by a Level III / Examiner or qualified representative) which shows the current certification was completed by examination administered by ASNT, employer, or other entity
- Identify that a vision test has been successfully administered in the past 12 months
- Identify that a color vision test was successfully administered in the past 5 years
- Testing will be given at ASNT testing centers

Follow this link to the exam: <https://certification.asnt.org/certification/naval-shipbuilders-ndt-level-iii/application>

NOTE: Training is available on the EB Supplier Website: https://gdeb.com/suppliers/12_weld_ndt/). This can be used as a preparation tool for taking the Level III / Examiner specific exam and will be required if there is a failure to pass the exam.

Screening of Candidate for Reexamination

If an applicant fails to pass the exam the first time, the following step will be required to retake the exam:

- A candidate requests for re-examination following the first failure. The examination administrator will require evidence that they have completed the provided shipbuilder training before the candidate will be allowed to schedule a second examination.
- If the candidate fails a second time, there will be a 30-day cooling off period before they will be allowed to take the third exam, and they must take it within 90 days. Failure to take the examination within this time period will result in a suspension to perform work per NAVSEA T9074-AS-GIB-010/271.
- If the candidate fails a third time, they shall be suspended from performing work per NAVSEA T9074-AS-GIB-010/271.
- Request for retake after the third failure will require cognizant shipyard administrator approval.

Timing for all Supplier Level III / Examiners to take the exam will be subsequently flowed down but targeting the 2nd Quarter of 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Zimak - gary.zimak@hii-nns.com or call at 757-688-6799 or 757-817-5533 or EBSupplierNDTSupport@gdeb.com.