

To all accredited/applicant certification bodies of persons PRS
To the associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies
To the DC department assessors/experts PRS

SUBJECT **Certification and Inspection Department**
Technical circular DC N° 38/2022 – Rules for transition to ISO 9712:2021 for accredited CABs in conformity with ISO/IEC 17024

On 12 May 2022, UNI (Italian national standardization body) implemented the new UNI EN ISO 9712 standard "Non-destructive testing - Qualification and certification of NDT personnel".

The new standard makes a clear distinction with respect to the previous edition of 2012; the main changes include:

- Minimum duration of training by level/method;
- Training delivery modalities, also remotely or in self-training for the theoretical part;
- Minimum previous experience in the method;
- Visual acuity testing related also to ISO 18490;
- Reviewed modalities of examination both in terms of number of questions and in terms of relation to the industrial and product sector;
- Association of samples to practical tests;
- Renewal and recertification procedures.

With regard to the new requirements, pending receiving formal indications from the relevant regulatory technical commissions on possible interpretations, the following policies are provided:

a. par. 7.2.2 – Training

According to the requirements of ISO/TS 25108, practical training must count for at least 50 ± 10% of the total. With regard to theoretical training in self-training regime, it is

recommended for levels 1 and 2 to limit this possibility to a maximum of 50% of the total theoretical training. Also with regard to self-training training, if for a candidate of level 1 or 2 the instructor is able to understand the candidate's knowledge in practical training, it would be appropriate for a candidate of level 3 not to limit the evaluation to a simple self-declaration.

b. par. 7.3.2 - Leve 3 industrial experience.

In citing "higher education", full equivalence of a three-year degree qualification must be understood as confirmed by the relevant UNI Technical Body with opinion n. Q2022_0084.

c. par. 8.2 + Annex A.2, A.3, B – Exam

Depending on the product and industrial sectors requested by the candidate, as set out in par. A.2 and A.3 of the standard, the CAB must establish procedures for calculating the samples to be submitted to Levels 1 and 2 for the practical exam. In accordance with par. 8.2.3.4 all samples must be classified according to the specific product and industrial sector of the applicable examination. It is recommended that these procedures systematically provide for the analysis of at least 2 samples selected from the most representative product sectors of the requested industrial sector, taking into consideration the possibility of integrating the verification of knowledge/competences in the product sectors not subject to the practical test directly in the specific written exam.

In the light of the significant innovations introduced for the certification process, a transition process for accreditations is necessary:

1. Already accredited CABs (with fixed scope)

- The transition of accreditation will be finalized by means of a specific document examination lasting 1 day. The CAB must send to ACCREDIA a schedule of the transition activities, the revised regulations and procedures, the communications to clients about any contractual changes, the revised checklists, the list of examiners/decision-takers and the updated list of examiners/evaluators and related training plan (update). This documentation must reach ACCREDIA by 31.03.2023. The document verification can, if necessary, be replaced with an assessment at the premises combined with the maintenance/renewal of accreditation.

The transition of the certificates is only possible once the accreditation has been updated. The certificates already issued remain valid until the first due deadline (renewal or recertification). After this deadline, they must be updated to the new edition of the standard by carrying out the relevant assessments (e.g.: additional examinations). Limited to renewals, the CAB, in applying the procedure defined in par. 10.1 e) of the new ISO 9712 (so-called credit system), may take into account a partialization of the credit count that also takes into account the previous years of certification in the 2012 edition. Hybrid renewal procedures in accordance with par. 10.1 d) and e) as alternative mechanisms to each other are not possible. At the express request of the client, the CAB can conduct the update activities to the new standard before renewal/recertification.

- The CABs, with effect from 30.09.2023, will no longer be able to conduct certification exams against the previous edition of the specific standard.

2. CABS with flexible scope accreditation:

The applicable rules of the ACCREDIA Technical Regulation RT-37 Technical Regulation in the current edition remain valid. With effect from 30.09.2023, it will no longer be possible to conduct certification exams against the previous edition of the specific standard.

3. New accreditations (or extensions):

With effect from the date of the protocol of this document, ACCREDIA will no longer accept Accreditation Applications based on the outdated edition of the standard ISO 9712. In cases where, at the date of the protocol, the document review has already been positively concluded, the update will be made during the on-site assessment where applicable or with an additional document review lasting 0.5 days.

As regards the product sectors for composite materials, note that in Italy there is a specific certification standard for personnel assigned to non-destructive tests in the field of civil engineering (ref. UNI/PdR 56: 2019). Therefore the possibility of overlap with the "cc" product sector (cement matrix composites) must be evaluated.

Finally, it should be noted that the reference to certifications according to the new standard is only possible upon successful completion of the transition (or accreditation) process including the decision by the Sector Accreditation Committee.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to make changes and additions to this document if interpretative positions are forthcoming from the relevant standardization bodies.

Please contact us for any clarifications.

Kind regards.

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