



Accreditation of Authorized Inspection Agencies (AIA) Performing Inservice Inspection Activities

The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors
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 **nationalboard.org**

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* 1.0 Scope

This document contains requirements for Authorized Inspection Agencies to obtain a National Board Certificate of Accreditation for the purposes of employing National Board Commissioned Inspectors to perform inservice inspection activities.

Authorized Inspection Agencies (AIA) meeting the requirements of this document may perform Inservice Inspections for Jurisdictional Compliance, and may extend their scope to include Repair/Alteration Inspections for National Board Inspection Code (NBIC) Compliance.

An AIA seeking a National Board *Certificate of Accreditation* shall have and maintain a written quality program that meets the requirements of this document and NB-381, *Quality Program for Inspection Organizations*. The quality program shall define the scope of inspections (inservice, repair/alteration or both).

National Board member and non-member jurisdictions performing inservice inspections and/or repair/alteration inspections inside their jurisdictional boundaries are recognized as AIAs and are exempt from the requirements of this document. National Board member and non-member jurisdictions performing AIA services outside their jurisdictional boundaries are required to be accredited as described in this document.

2.0 Application

- An AIA seeking to obtain or renew a *Certificate of Accreditation* shall apply to the National Board using forms obtained from the National Board. (See Paragraph 10.0.) Application for renewal shall be made at least six (6) months prior to the expiration date of the *Certificate of Accreditation*.
- Applicants for a new or renewed *Certificate of Accreditation* require a review at a location or locations where the applicant's inspection activities are controlled. The applicant shall specify the location(s) at which the written quality program will be fully demonstrated. It is not necessary to review each facility covered by the same program provided documentation is made available to the review team.
- An AIA, in the process of obtaining a *Certificate of Accreditation*, but is ineligible to employ Inspectors prior to the issuance of the *Certificate of Accreditation*, may request a *Provisional Certificate of Accreditation* from the National Board. An AIA seeking to obtain a *Provisional*

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Certificate of Accreditation shall apply to the National Board using forms obtained from the National Board. (See paragraph 10.0.) The *Provisional Certificate of Accreditation* permits the prospective AIA to employ National Board Commissioned Inspectors during the process of accreditation. The *Provisional Certificate of Accreditation* also permits employees of the prospective AIA to make application for a National Board commission or endorsement. The organization will not be permitted to perform inspections until Inspectors have received their commissions and the organization has been issued a *Certificate of Accreditation*. Further details of the process are described in Attachment 1.

- The AIA shall include a controlled copy of its quality program with the application for a *Certificate of Accreditation* and the application for a *Provisional Certificate of Accreditation*.
- Where the written quality program exists in more than one language, at least one version shall be in English and identified as the authoritative version.

* **3.0 Review of Applicant's Facility**

- Prior to issuance or renewal of a *Certificate of Accreditation*, the AIA, its written quality program, and its facilities are subject to a review and verification of implementation of its quality program by the National Board. The organization shall fully demonstrate the implementation of the Quality Program.
- Upon notification of the review dates from the National Board, it is the responsibility of the AIA to make arrangements for the review.
- The decision to issue, renew or withhold the *Certificate of Accreditation* is determined by the National Board based upon information contained in a Qualification Review Report for Accreditation of Owner-User Inspection Organizations, Federal Inspection Agencies, and Authorized Inspection Agencies (Inservice), NB-244, prepared by the Review Team Leader.
- When all requirements have been met, a *Certificate of Accreditation* will be issued. The *Certificate of Accreditation* shall describe the scope of inspections (inservice, repair/alteration or both). *Certificates of Accreditation* are issued for a three (3) year period, and shall expire on the triennial anniversary date.

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4.0 Interface with Jurisdictions

Every jurisdiction has specific requirements for AIAs. The requirements may vary among the jurisdictions. Authorized Inspection Agencies shall understand and abide by the specific laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which they practice. Where any provision in this document presents a direct or implied conflict with any jurisdictional regulation, the jurisdictional regulation shall govern.

5.0 Inservice Commissioned Inspector Requirements

The AIA shall employ Inspectors who meet the requirements of NB-263, *RCI-1, Rules for Commissioned Inspectors* and who hold a valid National Board Inservice Commission (IS), and an R Endorsement if the scope of inspections includes repair/alteration inspections.

* 6.0 Organization and Management

- In addition to the employment of the Inspector(s) described in Paragraph 5.0, the AIA shall employ one or more supervisors/technical manager(s), however named, who have the overall responsibility for: carrying out inspection activities in accordance with this document; the required duties described in NB-263, *RCI-1, Rules for Commissioned Inspectors*; and monitoring the performance of the Inspector. The supervisor/ technical manager shall hold a valid National Board Inservice Commission (IS) and an R Endorsement, if the scope of inspections includes repair/alteration inspections.
- The AIA shall provide one or more supervisors/technical manager(s) to be in attendance during the review and verification of implementation of its quality program by the National Board.
- The AIA shall provide ongoing training to maintain the competence of its personnel.
- The AIA shall provide instructions to Inspectors specifying their respective duties and responsibilities, including the duty to perform inspections in accordance with jurisdictional requirements.
- The AIA shall have insurance coverage adequate for its inspection activities.
- The AIA shall identify any entity within its ownership structure that provides a service or product that may create a conflict of interest with its AIA work.

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- The AIA shall be an entity recognized as a legal entity under the laws of each jurisdiction in which it does business – such as a corporation, partnership, limited liability corporation, or limited liability partnership.
- The AIA shall provide the company name as it will appear on the Certificate.
- The AIA shall identify the owner or owners of the AIA and, additionally, any other owners up the chain of ownership to, and including, the ultimate parent or owner.
- The AIA shall ensure confidentiality of information obtained in the course of its inspection activities. Proprietary rights of those inspected shall be protected.

* **7.0 Independence, Impartiality and Integrity**

- The personnel of the AIA shall be free from any commercial, financial and other pressures which might affect their judgement. Procedures shall be implemented to ensure that persons or organizations external to the AIA, cannot influence the results of inspections carried out.
- The AIA shall be independent to the extent that is required with regard to the conditions under which it performs its services. It shall meet the criteria described below:
 - The AIA shall be independent of the parties involved.
 - When the AIA is a legal entity within a larger organization, the relationship between entities within the larger organization structure shall be clearly delineated within the AIA Quality Program.
 - The AIA and its staff responsible for carrying out the inspection shall not be the designer, manufacturer, supplier or installer, purchaser, owner, user or maintainer of the items which they inspect, nor the authorized representative of any of these parties.
 - The AIA and its staff shall not engage in any activities that may conflict with their independence of judgment and integrity in relation to their inspection activities.

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8.0 AIA Quality Program

The AIA Quality Program shall, at a minimum, include the elements identified in NB-381, *Quality Program For Inspection Organizations*. All required elements shall be addressed and documented in the program quality manual.

Once a successful review has been completed, a controlled copy of the most current approved Quality Manual must be submitted to the National Board.

9.0 Due Process

The National Board provides procedural due process in connection with accreditation activities. There are several levels to which an aggrieved party may appeal. The process may be initiated by contacting the National Board's Executive Director.

10.0 National Board Forms/Information

- All documents and communications with the National Board must be in the English language.
- The Application form for a new or renewed *Certificate of Accreditation* and the Application form for a *Provisional Certificate of Accreditation* may be obtained from the National Board Accreditation Department.
- The AIA may submit the Application and the Quality Program via email or through conventional mail services.
- Contact with the National Board for Application forms, submittal of Applications/Quality Programs and general correspondence may be made as follows:
 - Email: accreditation@nationalboard.org
 - Address: The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors
Accreditation Department
1055 Crupper Avenue
Columbus, OH 43229

**Issuance of National Board Commissions/Endorsements
to Inspectors Employed by
Prospective AIA's Making an Initial Application
for a *Certificate of Accreditation***

- Inspectors/Supervisors holding valid National Board commissions and applicable endorsements may have their Commissions and Endorsements transferred from a previous employer to the prospective AIA making initial application for an *AIA Certificate of Accreditation*. The Inspector shall submit an *Application for Change of Employment*, NB-216-1, to the National Board.

Upon acceptance of the Application, the National Board will send an acknowledgement to the prospective AIA indicating the Inspector's/Supervisor's commissions/endorsements will be transferred to the AIA upon issuance of the *AIA Certificate of Accreditation*.

- Inspectors not holding a National Board commission shall submit an *Application for the Inservice Commission*, NB-120-1, to the National Board, and shall:
 - identify the prospective AIA as their employer,
 - comply with the education and experience requirements of NB-263, *RCI-1, Rules for Commissioned Inspectors*, and
 - complete any required training and pass the examination for the commission.

When the above requirements are met, the National Board will send an acknowledgement to the prospective AIA indicating the individual's commission will be issued to the AIA upon issuance of the *AIA Certificate of Accreditation*.