IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

NB-263, RCI-1 — *Rules for Commissioned Inspectors*

2027 Edition

Prepared by the Commissions & Certification Department • August 2026

Purpose

This plan describes how the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors (NBBI) will implement changes to NB-263, RCI-1, *Rules for Commissioned Inspectors*, effective January 1, 2027. It covers publication of the 2027 edition as an electronic standard, the rollout schedule, and a summary of the approved revisions. Where warranted, this document uses gender-neutral language throughout. The **bold red text** identifies new or revised language, and struck ~~gray text~~ identifies deleted language.

Publication of the 2027 Electronic Edition

The 2027 edition of NB-263, RCI-1, continues to be published as an electronic standard, available at nbbi.org. NBBI will produce a limited number of printed copies through its print-fulfillment provider for departments that require them. The Communications Department will announce the release across the NBBI's social media platforms and other communication channels.

Key Dates

Milestone	Date	Details
NBBI BOT Approval	August 24, 2026	BOT approved - Publishing allowed
Electronic publication	September - October 2026	2027 Edition posted to nbbi.org
Distribution	Mid-November – early December 2026	Release announced across National Board communication channels
Effective date	January 1, 2027	The 2027 edition of RCI-1 takes effect
Mandatory date	July 1, 2027	Compliance with the 2027 edition becomes mandatory
2028 renewals begin	October 1, 2027	The new edition supports 2028 commission and endorsement renewals

Summary of Revisions — 2027 Edition

Two global updates apply throughout the publication: all dates were advanced two (2) years, and personnel, edition, and page numbering were updated. The Committee on Qualification for Inspectors (CQI) approved the technical and administrative revisions below.

Part 1 — National Board Commissions and Endorsements

1-1.2 Commission-specific requirements. Candidates must continue to hold five (5) credit points based on a combination of education and experience in the pressure equipment industry. New language ties each candidate directly to the requirements of the desired commission.

REVISED — 1-1.2

…a candidate shall have a minimum of five (5) credit points based upon a combination of education and experience in the pressure equipment industry. **In addition, the candidate must also meet the requirements listed for the desired commission detailed in Table 1.**

1-1.4 New pathway — NB-388 Authorized Inspector Training Program. A new paragraph supports the objectives of the NB-388 Authorized Inspector Training Program. Completion of the program satisfies the five-credit-point eligibility requirement in Table 1.

NEW — 1-1.4

In lieu of the requirement for an applicant to have the five credit points described in Table 1, an applicant for the National Board Authorized Inspector (AI) Commission may complete the National Board Authorized Inspector Training Program described in National Board publication NB-388, available on the National Board's website. The training program combines mentored on-the-job training with the successful completion of the National Board's AI Commission Course.

1-1.5 Recodification. The previous paragraph at 1-1.4 was recodified as 1-1.5 with no changes.

1-6.1 & 1-6.2 Reinstatement. When a commission or endorsement has lapsed for more than two (2) years, the formerly Commissioned Inspector **shall meet the qualification requirements outlined in Tables 1, 2, or 3** and retake and pass the required examination.

REVISED — 1-6.1

When a commission and/or endorsement has not been renewed for more than two (2) years, the commission and/or endorsement may be reinstated, provided the formerly Commissioned Inspector and their employer complete and submit the Application for Reinstatement. **The formerly Commissioned Inspector shall meet the qualification requirements outlined in Tables 1, 2, or 3 and** *retake and pass any required examination for the commission or endorsement.*

1-6.2 Inspectors who have maintained a National Board Pressure Equipment Inspector (PEI) certification need not retake the examination for the corresponding commission and/or endorsement **but shall otherwise meet the qualification requirements**; any other commission or endorsement requires reexamination.

REVISED — 1-6.2

Formerly Commissioned Inspectors who have maintained a National Board Pressure Equipment Inspector (PEI) certification need not retake the examination for the corresponding commission and/or endorsement, **but shall otherwise meet the qualification requirements**. *Any other commission and/or endorsement will require reexamination.*

Table 1 — Qualification Requirements for Commissions. In the **AI** Commission requirements, the words ~~"experience, including"~~ were struck from the third bullet. Under Education, the accredited military or merchant marine training criterion moved to the second row, with credit increased from 2 to **3 points**; classroom technical training must now be **acceptable to the National Board**; and **Welding** was added to the acceptable technology courses.

Table 2 — Qualifications for Inspector Endorsements (R). For holders of an IS Commission, the eighty (80) hour requirement now reads **"diversified on-the-job training,"** and the forty (40) hour maximum adds the word **"diversified."** A new bullet establishes a pathway for those who are pursuing an AI Commission.

NEW — TABLE 2, HOLDER OF AI COMMISSION

Sixteen (16) hours of diversified on-the-job experience, including on-the-job training as a Repair Inspector Trainee under the direct supervision of a Repair Inspector or Repair Inspector Supervisor in accordance with the NBIC. This experience shall cover topics related to NBIC repair and alteration activities.

Part 3 — Inservice Inspection

3-1.5 Supervisor participation in audits. A new sentence in this paragraph to strengthen the annual field-performance audit of each Inservice Inspector.

NEW — 3-1.5

The Inservice Inspector Supervisor/Technical Manager shall accompany the Inspector during the audit. Newly qualified and designated Inservice Inspectors, or those with performance deficiencies, should receive increased supervision, review, or observation until an acceptable performance history is established.

3-2.5 Signing documents. A new paragraph limits Inservice Inspectors to **signing documents for only those inspections they have performed**.

NEW — 3-2.5

Signing documents for only those inspections they have performed.

Part 4 — Authorized Inspection (ASME)

4-1.1.2 Maintaining records. The Authorized Inspector Supervisor maintains records.

NEW — 4-1.1.2

~~Maintaining a record of those Authorized Inspector being supervised and a description of their assignments.~~

Maintain a record of those Authorized Inspectors being supervised, containing the following information as a minimum:

a) name of the Authorized Inspectors assigned and a description of their assignments.

b) name of the Certificate Holders and their locations to which the Authorized Inspectors are assigned.

c) date and short description of each supervisory duty performed.

4-1.1.3 Audit scope. The paragraph on auditing Authorized Inspector performance was restructured into sub-paragraphs (a) through (e), with new provisions added as (b) and (c). Audits are conducted at a shop or field site of a Certificate Holder actively engaged in Code work.

NEW — 4-1.1.3(b) and (c)

Auditing and documenting the performance of each Authorized Inspector assigned to shop or field inspection responsibilities.

a) *The audit shall be conducted at a shop or field site of a Certificate Holder that has been actively engaged in Code work and to which the Authorized Inspector is assigned. assigned.*

b) The audit shall not be conducted at a shop or field site to which the Authorized Inspector is assigned where no work is performed under an ASME Certificate of Authorization or the Authorized Inspector has only performed monitoring activities in accordance with paragraph 6-4.3.

c) An audit is not mandatory if the Authorized Inspector has not been engaged in any ASME B&PV inspection work or monitoring activities.

d) *An existing sentence not changed – restructured to a sub-paragraph*

e) *An existing sentence not changed – restructured to a sub-paragraph*

4-2.1.13 Signing documents. A new paragraph states that **the Authorized Inspector shall only sign documents for activities they have performed or verified**.

NEW — 4-2.1.13

The Authorized Inspector shall only sign documents for activities they have performed or verified.

Part 5 — Repair Inspection

5-2.4 Supervisor participation in audits. Mirroring Part 3, a new sentence was added to the Repair Inspector Supervisor/Technical Manager duties in this paragraph.

NEW — 5-2.4

The Repair Supervisor/Technical Manager shall accompany the Repair Inspector during the audit. Newly qualified and designated Repair Inspectors, or those with performance deficiencies, should receive increased supervision, review, or observation until an acceptable performance history is established.

5-3.14 Signing documents. A new paragraph states that **the Repair Inspector shall only sign documents for activities they have performed or verified**.

NEW — 5-3.14

The Repair Inspector shall only sign documents for activities they have performed or verified.

Part 6 — Inspector Diary, Monitoring, Use of Commissions, and Employment

6-3.1 Entries in the Inspector Diary. Revised this section. Diary entries now capture both activities and items. Recorded information shall include a description of the **activity performed or** item inspected, the type of observations made, and the results of the activity **when applicable**.

REVISED — 6-3.1

a) *Provide a clear indication of the nature and extent of the Inspector's activities and inspections made, detailing corrections and any other pertinent data that will be useful to him/her and his/her employer. Information to be recorded shall include a description of the* **activity performed or** *item inspected, the type of observations made, and the results of the activity* **when applicable.**

6-4.1 Recording monitoring activities. Monitoring of a Certificate Holder's accepted quality program must be recorded in detail, readily understood by the Supervisor and other permitted reviewers. In this paragraph, ***a new sentence*** sets the minimum content of each record.

REVISED — 6-4.1

Monitoring of a Certificate Holder's accepted quality program by the Authorized Inspector/Repair Inspector is necessary to ensure all quality program elements are followed. Effective monitoring shall include verifying or witnessing specific criteria comprising the quality program elements. Specific monitoring activities shall be recorded and shall be in such detail as to be readily understood by the Authorized Inspector's/Repair Inspector's Supervisor and other personnel who are permitted to review the diary entries. **The Authorized Inspector/Repair Inspector shall identify the date the monitoring was performed and provide a brief description of what has been observed or checked.** *Deficiencies and nonconformances related to either the quality program or ASME B&PV Code or NBIC requirements shall be documented. Corrective actions by the Certificate Holder to ensure compliance with the accepted quality program and ASME B&PV Code or NBIC requirements shall be verified and documented by the Authorized Inspector/Repair Inspector.*

Glossary of Terms

Diversified On-The-Job Training (OJT) — new definition. A new definition establishes a single, consistent meaning for the term now used throughout Tables 1 and 2.

NEW DEFINITION

Knowledge, experience and competency to be gained by an Inspector, seeking a National Board Commission or Endorsement, through performing a broad range of duties and tasks listed in the applicable codes under direct supervision of an Authorized Inspector (Repair Inspector) or an Authorized Inspector Supervisor (Repair Inspector Supervisor/Technical Manager).

Owner-User Inspector Supervisor — editorial update. The definition now uses mandatory, gender-neutral language ("is" becomes **"shall be"**; "his" becomes **"their"**), adds a new sentence at the end, and a sentence in the paragraph was struck.

REVISED DEFINITION

Owner-User Inspector Supervisor – *The Supervisor* ~~is~~ **shall be** *selected and designated as such by* ~~his~~ **their** *employer*. ~~The Supervisor shall have passed an examination developed and administered by the National Board and received an O Endorsement from the National Board.~~ *A candidate for designation as a Supervisor shall have qualified as an Inspector and subsequently been engaged for at least two (2) years in inservice inspection-related work.* **When required by the jurisdiction, the Supervisor shall have passed an examination developed by the National Board and received an O endorsement from the National Board.**

Questions

Questions regarding the 2027 Edition of NB-263, RCI-1, or this implementation plan may be directed to the Secretary, Committee on Qualification for Inspections, at secretarycqi@nationalboard.org.