



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM INSPECTION (College)

INSTITUTION: Aerospace Inspection Training Ltd

ADDRESS: Units 9 & 10
Takely Business Centre
Dunmow Road
Bishop's Stortford
CM22 6SJ

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Ms Samantha Wright

ACCREDITATION STATUS: Accredited

DATE OF INSPECTION: 24 September 2019

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 28 November 2019

PART A – INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

Aerospace Inspection Testing Limited (AIT/the Institution) was formed in 1980. It delivers training and examinations in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) techniques. It also offers consultancy services to the aerospace industry, including air lines and aircraft manufacturers, relating to International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 9712 standards and EN4179 Level 3 that sets out the requirements for the applicable training, experience, and examination for various common NDT methods.

AIT's ethos is one of delivering high quality training in an area which is critical to aerospace safety. It aims to do this in accordance with highly regulated standards to ensure that students who complete the courses are equipped with the appropriate level of skills and expertise.

AIT is part of the Morgan Ward group of companies and the Managing Director of AIT reports to the Board of the Morgan Ward Group. The Quality Manager of AIT is also Quality Manager of the Morgan Ward Group. The Managing Director is also supported by the General Manager, Centre Administrator and Training Coordinator.

The Institution is accredited by the British Institute of Non-destructive Testing (BINDT) for Personnel Certification in Non-Destructive Testing (PCN) training, Employer Based Certification in NDT and as an outside agency for Level 3 consultancy services, company certification and as a PCN examination centre. BINDT is a globally recognised professional body which maintains the Personnel Certification in Non-destructive Testing (PCN) scheme.

AIT also acts as consultants for companies who are approved by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in NDT services.

BAC accreditation is for the Institution's training and examinations only.

2. Brief description of the current provision

AIT currently offers a number of BINDT accredited courses leading to EN4179 Levels 1, 2 and 3 as well as PCN Levels 2 and 3. PCN Levels 2 and 3 are equivalent to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at levels 3 to 5. Internal standard and bespoke courses are also available to meet the needs of client organisations.

All students are over 18 and most are sponsored by their employer. Courses are typically of three to ten days' duration with a further short period for the examinations.

Courses are offered on demand so student numbers vary on a week-by-week basis. In the past year, AIT has run a total of 45 courses with a total of approximately 150 students. At the time of the inspection, there were five students, four male and one female.

Most courses are run in-house at Takely but a few are run on-site at overseas clients' facilities. In this case, the course is identical to the in-house course using the same instructor.

AIT has opened a new facility in Malta, which caters for clients from the Middle East. Although AIT operates in a number of countries, the BAC accreditation applies only to the United Kingdom.

3. Inspection process

The inspection was carried out by one inspector over one day. The inspector undertook a tour of the premises, including the classrooms and the practical areas. He met with the General Manager and the Training Coordinator. The inspector also met with two teachers individually and held two meetings with students. A classroom-based

training session was observed. Staff were very cooperative and well-organised and made available all the documentation required.

4. Inspection History

Inspection Type	Date
Full Accreditation	25-26 February 2009
Interim	8 June 2010
Supplementary	17 January 2013
Re-accreditation	24-25 July 2013
Interim	21 August 2015
Re-accreditation	14-15 June 2017

PART B – JUDGMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgments and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector during the inspection and from documentation provided by the institution.

1. Significant changes since the last inspection

The Institution now has a new general manager, recruited from within AIT. This allows for additional internal oversight of all aspects of the provision. Generally, staff retention is very stable, especially the teaching staff.

AIT has invested heavily in upgrading equipment since the last inspection and has purchased a completely new suite of Eddy Current Testing (ET) equipment so students have improved access to essential equipment.

2. Response to actions points in last report

There were no action points in the last report.

3. Response to recommended areas for improvement in last report

It is recommended that AIT considers obtaining feedback from corporate clients to enhance the feedback provided by students.

Excellent progress has been made and AIT now routinely obtains feedback from the Quality Managers of its corporate clients after each course and the Quality Managers are providing useful feedback. In addition, AIT has made it easier for corporate clients and students to leave feedback by establishing two online forums for that purpose. One of these forums accepts oral comments as well as written ones so making it easier for students with English as an additional language and those with dyslexia to leave feedback. The feedback is analysed and used to enhance the provision.

AIT should consider training one or more of its instructors to recognise conditions such as dyslexia, which students may not declare and or which they may not even be aware.

The application form has been altered to include a question asking students to declare any special educational requirements they may have. This information is then given to instructors to allow them to make any necessary adaptations. AIT sought expert advice and reviewed all the printed materials including course notes and examination papers to ensure these were using the most appropriate fonts and sizes. Members of staff have undertaken a training course which includes a section on dyslexia and other common conditions. Laptops are now available for students who may have dyslexia or handwriting problems.

Most of the examinations undertaken are multiple choice in nature, but even so, extra time is allowed for those who need it and examinations can be held in a separate room to allow for additional support.

In addition, one of the teachers has dyslexia and offers additional support, advice and insights as required. These changes enable AIT to give additional targeted support.

4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements

4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration (spot check)

The standards are judged to be:

Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

The Institution is very well managed with a comprehensive set of policies and procedures which together ensure the smooth and successful running of the Institution. These policies and procedures are well disseminated so there is a common approach to achieving the aims of the Institution.

Staff have clearly defined job descriptions with the result that they understand their roles properly. The job descriptions are comprehensive and regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Channels of communication are clear and effective. All staff interviewed praised the willingness of management to listen and respond to their comments and suggestions.

AIT is strongly committed to continuous improvement with a policy and culture to challenge everything, so all staff are constantly seeking ways to improve their working practices.

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment (spot check)

The standards are judged to be: Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

Teachers are experts in their fields and have direct industrial experience so providing students with practical as well as theoretical knowledge.

The Institution has excellent resources to support effective teaching and learning. Practical lessons in particular are very well resourced.

Students have a good mix of theoretical and practical lessons, with afternoons often spent implementing the new theoretical knowledge from the morning lessons. Additionally, students benefit from small class sizes and the inclusive approach of the teachers.

Examination success rates are very high. Students are very happy with the teaching and are confident of success.

4.3 Student Welfare (spot check)

The standards are judged to be: Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

Students confirm they receive appropriate advice prior to and on arrival at the Institution so they are able to quickly settle to their studies. All students are confident they can approach teachers or other staff if they have a personal or welfare problem.

Students have easy access to a fair and efficient grievance procedure including BAC's own complaints procedure. The grievance policy is highlighted at induction.

Students consider themselves to be safe and secure whilst on the premises. Relationships between staff and students and between students and other students are cordial and supportive of learning.

The Institution lacks a policy and procedures, such as a risk assessment and staff training, to address the threat of radicalisation or extremism, so students are potentially at risk.

4.4 Premises and Facilities (spot check)

The standards are judged to be:

Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

The premises are light, airy and very well maintained so the environment is conducive to learning. The building is clean and well decorated. Classrooms are attractive with interesting classroom displays. Signage is good. Access to the premises is secure.

There is ample space in the classrooms and in the practical areas. Classrooms are well furnished and well resourced. Staff and students have access to strong, dependable wireless access.

Students are made fully aware of specific safety rules in the practical areas with the result that the practical areas are safe working environments.

There are appropriate additional facilities for students and instructors including a space for relaxation, a prayer room, meeting rooms and a space for one to one meetings.

4.5 Compliance Declaration

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.

Yes No

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

STRENGTHS

There is an obvious commitment to maintaining high standards and continuously improving upon the quality standards with the result that provision is constantly evolving and improving.

Teachers have excellent subject knowledge backed up by direct industrial experience, so students benefit not only from their teaching but also from their hands-on experience.

Examination success rates are very high, so students and corporate clients are able to achieve their goals.

Resources, especially in the practical areas, are outstanding so students have ample opportunity to apply their new classroom knowledge in practical situations.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

AIT must put in place appropriate arrangements to minimise any potential risk to students of radicalisation and extremism.

High Medium Low

RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT *(to be reviewed at the next inspection)*

None

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS - FURTHER COMMENTS, IF APPLICABLE