

# LET'S TAKE THE INSANITY OUT OF SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS

**PRESENTATION TO THE NDTMA AT THE  
GOLDEN NUGGET IN LAS VEGAS ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 BY  
STEPHEN M. SENNE, MDTCM, ND OF  
SENNE TECHNICAL SERVICES**

# THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (AIA)

**...IS PREPARING TO RELEASE REVISION 4  
OF THE NATIONAL AEROSPACE  
STANDARD (NAS) 410! IN FACT, I WAS  
HOPING THIS RELEASE WOULD OCCUR  
PRIOR TO THIS CONFERENCE.**

...INSANITY

**THE NEW DOCUMENT WILL MORE THOROUGHLY COVER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE “OPEN BOOK” SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS AND WILL NOT BE AS AMBIQUIOUS AS IN REVISION THREE.**

**THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRED WILL REMAIN THIRTY, BUT ALL WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE INTERPRETATIVE AND NOT OF THE “LOOK UP AND FIND” VARIETY. ALL OF YOU CAN WRITE INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS SO THAT IN ITSELF IS NOT GOING TO BE A BIG REQUIREMENT.**

...INSANITY

**THE QUESTION IS... “IS IT REALLY NECESSARY FOR THE QUESTIONS IN THE EXAMINATION TO BE ‘INTERPRETATIVE’ AND NOT BE OF A ‘LOOK UP AND FIND VARIETY’?”**

**THE VERY NATURE OF A “SPECIFIC” IS TO BE JUST THAT, TO STATE WHAT IS REQUIRED. IT SHOULD BE LIKE A RECEIPE. IF YOU PUT EVERYTHING IN THAT SHOULD BE THERE AND IN THE CORRECT ORDER AND AT THE PROPER TEMPERATURES, YOU SHOULD GET A GOOD FINAL PRODUCT!**

...INSANITY

**THOSE OF YOU DEALING WITH PRI/NADCAP FOUND THAT BEGINNING IN AUGUST OF 2013 THAT MANY SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS WERE BEING DISCREDITED AS NOT BEING STRICTLY INTERPRETATIVE. THIS WAS THREATENING TO BE “PRODUCT” IMPACT ON THOSE WHO WE HAD CERTIFIED SINCE THE PREVIOUS NADCAP AUDITS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE BEING WRITTEN AS A MINOR AND A PROCEDURAL PROBLEM.**

...INSANITY

**REMEMBER WHEN REVISION THREE WAS RELEASED OF NAS 410? NADCAP MADE A BIG ISSUE ABOUT OUR SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS BEING CLOSED AND NOT OPEN BOOK. ANOTHER WELL KNOWN CONSULTANT AND I TALKED ABOUT THE FACT THE PARAGRAPH WAS SO VAGUE REGARDING THE OPEN BOOK EXAMINATIONS THAT IT WOULD BECOME A PROBLEM, BUT AS THE CONSULTANT SAID TO ME, “STEVE, IT IS AN INDUSTRY PROBLEM, LET INDUSTRY DEAL WITH IT !!!”**

...INSANITY

**INDUSTRY DID NOT DEAL WITH IT AND IN 2013  
IT BECAME A MAJOR ISSUE WITH  
CONSULTANTS SUCH AS MYSELF AND I WAS  
ONLY ONE OF MANY! WHY AM I SO UPSET  
WITH THIS ISSUE?**

**LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE HISTORY ON ONE OF  
MY ACCOUNTS. THIS ACCOUNT HAD THREE  
NADCAP NDT AUDITS WITH NO WRITE-UPS,  
THEN ONE WITH A MINOR THAT WAS VOIDED  
BY NADCAP STAFF, I.E. FOUR ZERO NDT  
NADCAP AUDITS – UNHEARD OF...**

...INSANITY

**COMING INTO THE FIFTH AUDIT, GUESS WHAT,  
OUR AUDITOR WAS CHANGED FOR A VERY HIGH  
POWERED, ORIGINAL NADCAP TASK GROUP  
PARTICIPANT AND A SENIOR PRIME AUDITOR –  
AFTER ALL – WHO COULD POSSIBLY BE SO CLEAN  
FOR SO LONG?**

**AFTER THREE INTENSE DAYS OF AUDITING THE  
ONLY THING THE AUDITOR COULD ATTACK WAS  
MY SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS AND LET ME TELL  
YOU ABOUT THE FIRST ONE IN QUESTION SINCE  
THERE IS HISTORY THERE AS WELL!**



...INSANITY

**IN 2012, A LEVEL III FROM A COMPANY WAS WORKING PART TIME AT ANOTHER FACILITY AND USED HIS CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION EXAMINATIONS FROM HIS PRIMARY COMPANY FOR THE SECOND FACILITY. NADCAP, RIGHTLY SO, SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS.**

**WHEN I RETESTED THIS INDIVIDUAL, FOR PENETRANT LEVEL III ONLY, I GAVE A TOTAL OF 110 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS...**

...INSANITY

**THE ENTIRE NADCAP STAFF ENGINEERING GROUP REVIEWED THIS SPECIFIC EXAMINATION AND DETERMINED THAT THERE WERE 69 INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS AND SINCE THERE WERE MORE THAN 40, IT WAS AN ACCEPTABLE EXAMINATION. WHERE DID THE 40 COME FROM? THE SPECIFICATION ONLY REQUIRES 30, BUT AS USUAL NADCAP CAN MAKE ANY DETERMINATION THEY WANT!**

...INSANITY

**IN MARCH OF 2013, I TOOK THIS EXAMINATION THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED, ADDED 96 MORE QUESTIONS (...AT LEAST 25% MORE) FOR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL'S PT III RECERTIFICATION - A TOTAL OF 206 QUESTIONS AND THE AUDITOR CLAIMED I HAD TOO MANY "LOOK UP AND FIND" AND THEREFORE THE EXAMINATION WAS INVALID. NOW, THIS WAS THE ONLY NCR AT THE COMPANY I PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO COMING TO THEIR 5<sup>TH</sup> POSSIBLE ZERO NDT AUDIT!**

...INSANITY

**THIS SAME COMPANY IN 2013 RECEIVED THEIR FIRST 24 MONTH MERIT FOR CHEMICAL PROCESSING WITH ZERO NCR'S AND THEIR QUALITY SYSTEM AUDIT FOR THE FOURTH TIME WITH ZERO NCR'S! THIS IS A COMPANY UNDER CONTROL! THEIR 24 MONTH NDT MERIT OF COURSE WAS MAINTAINED BUT NOW NADCAP HAD ATTACKED THEM BECAUSE OF ME! WHERE WAS THE INDUSTRY?**

...INSANITY

**I TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE NCR. EVEN THE AUDITOR TOLD ME AFTER THE AUDIT THAT THIS WAS A “B.S.” WRITE UP BUT HE WAS REQUIRED TO CALL IT SINCE IT WAS ON THE “CHECKSHEET”. LORD HELP US ABOUT THESE**

**CHECK SHEETS! WE ASKED THE STAFF ENGINEER TO VOID THE NCR. EVEN HE SAID HE WANTED TO HAVE ANOTHER STAFF ENGINEER LOOK AT MY SPECIFIC BECAUSE HE FELT SOME “SANITY” NEEDED TO BE ADMINISTERED.**

...INSANITY

**I WILL GIVE IT TO NADCAP AS THE STAFF ENGINEER (WHO I LIKE ANYWAY) ASKED AIA FOR INTERPRETATIONS. AIA SENT THEIR INTERPRETATIONS TO NADCAP AND GUESS WHAT, THE NCR WAS CHANGED FROM NOT HAVING ENOUGH INTERPRETATIVE QUESTION, SINCE OBVIOUSLY I DID, BUT INSTEAD WAS DETERMINED THAT SINCE I HAD GIVEN REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR THE LOOK UP AND FIND, IT WAS AN INVALID SPECIFIC!**

...INSANITY

HAVING BEEN IN THE LAUNCH BUSINESS FOR  
ALMOST 48 YEARS AS YOU HEARD YESTERDAY  
AT MY SPEECH, I WENT ABSOLUTELY  
BALLISTIC!!!

I WROTE AN ARTICLE FOR “MATERIALS’  
EVALUATION”; SENT A COPY TO AIA; NADCAP  
AND WROTE SOME PRETTY NASTY LETTERS. THE  
RESULT IS THAT I HAVE HEARD FROM AROUND  
THE WORLD ON THIS! IT BECAME PART OF THE  
NADCAP ANNUAL MEETING!

...INSANITY

THE END RESULT WAS THAT SINCE AIA HAD NOT GIVEN THE INDUSTRY NOTIFICATION AS THEY HAD NADCAP, THAT THE REQUIREMENTS AS DETERMINED BY AIA WERE PUBLISHED; THE NADCAP CHECKSHEET IS BEING REVISED AND ALL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE OPEN BOOK SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS WOULD BE DEFERRED TO JANUARY 1, 2014. A LITTLE RELIEF FOR ALL OF YOU AND SOME RUNNING TIME.



...INSANITY

**SO WHY AM I HERE? FOR SANITY!**

**AT THE NADCAP MEETING, SEVERAL OF THE PRIMES SPOKE UP ABOUT WANTING TO REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 15 INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF THE PRIMES FOR WHICH A COMPANY IS WORKING. THERE ARE 161 PRIMES SIGNED UP AT PRI/NADCAP. THE FACILITY THAT I HAVE MENTIONED HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS A LONG TIME AND WORKS WITH 140 OF THE PRIMES. SO DO I NOW HAVE TO WRITE 2100 INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS?**

...INSANITY

**WHEN (AIA) NAS 410 IS RELEASED IN REVISION FOUR, PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY AND TAKE EXCEPTION TO IT PRIOR TO BEING REQUIRED AND NOT FIVE YEARS LATER AS HAS HAPPENED IN THIS CASE. PROTEST THE “INSANITY”. THE RESPONSES I HAVE RECEIVED HAVE BEEN THAT THE SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS SHOULD BE INTERPRETATIVE OR LOOK UP AND FIND AS DETERMINED BY THE RESPONSIBLE LEVEL III FOR HIS/HER FACILITY. THANK YOU!**