



2023 Edition of RCI-1 Changes

MIKE BURNS, SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER

The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors' (NBBI) Committee on Qualifications for Inspection (CQI) held a two-day meeting in March 2022 to approve final changes to the 2023 Edition of NB-263, RCI-1, *Rules for Commissioned Inspectors*, completing the two-year editorial cycle for this edition.

During this meeting, Rob Troutt, chair of NBBI's Board of Trustees, communicated the Board's vision for the document, resulting in substantive modifications. These proposed changes, along with previously voted upon changes from CQI, were placed on the Board of Trustees' April 2022 agenda and were approved at that time. The approved changes are anticipated to be the first in a series to migrate Part 1 of the publication, titled "National Board Commissions and Endorsements," from a time-based document to a personnel qualification standard (PQS) document while mirroring the current language found in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' (ASME) QAI-1 document.

In addition to minor editorial changes, major changes to the publication include the following:

Part 1: National Board Commissions and Endorsements

Paragraphs 1-6 Reinstatement of the Commission/Endorsement

Paragraph 1-6 Reinstatement of the Commission/Endorsement was extensively revised and simplified. Significantly, any commission or endorsement inactive for more than two years requires any currently required examination (new issuance) be taken to reinstate the corresponding commission/endorsement. The paragraph now reads:

1-6 REINSTATEMENT OF THE COMMISSION/ENDORSEMENT

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, and the formerly Commissioned Inspector shall retake and pass any required examination for the commission or endorsement.

1-6.2 When a commission and/or endorsement has not been renewed for

a period of less than two (2) years, the commission and/or endorsement may be reinstated provided the formerly Commissioned Inspector and the employer complete and submit the Application for Reinstatement, and the formerly Commissioned Inspector has completed continuing education course(s) (see Paragraph 1-8) for each commission and/or endorsement within twelve (12) months prior to the submittal date of the Application for Reinstatement.

1-6.3 The current employer shall certify that the formerly Commissioned Inspector has met the requirements as stated on the Application for Reinstatement.

1-6.4 The Application for Reinstatement shall be evaluated by the National Board staff and approved by the Executive Director.

Addition of Paragraph 1-9 Applications

Paragraph 1-9 Applications was added to emphasize the employer's responsibility to qualify and develop their inspectors.

The new paragraph states:

1-9 APPLICATIONS

The Employer is responsible for the development of candidates for NB Commissions and Endorsements. The Employer is also responsible for:

1-9.1 Providing for experience, education, and training of candidates for NB Commissions and Endorsements,

1-9.2 Ensuring Inspector and Supervisor candidates are qualified and meet the requirements specified herein.

1-9.3 Submitting applications for commissions and endorsements for Inspector and Supervisor candidates to the National Board, certifying that the candidate has the required experience and training and that, for Inspectors, qualified supervision will be provided to ensure the Inspector satisfactorily fulfills their duties.

Table 1 Qualification Requirements for Commissions AI

The qualifying requirements for the **AI** commission were revised and now include language matching that found in ASME's QAI-1 publication. The requirements in the table now read:

- High school education [twelve (12) years or equivalent educational system]
- Meet the requirements of Part 1-1
- Engaged for at least 80 hours of diversified experience as an Authorized Inspector trainee under the direct supervision of an Authorized Inspector/ Authorized Inspector Supervisor in accordance with the ASME B&PV Code. A maximum of eight (8) hours, as an Authorized Inspector trainee participating as an observer in a joint review for

an ASME Certificate of Authorization, may be credited toward the eighty (80) hour requirement

- Satisfactory completion of the National Board Authorized Inspector Commission Course (**AI**)

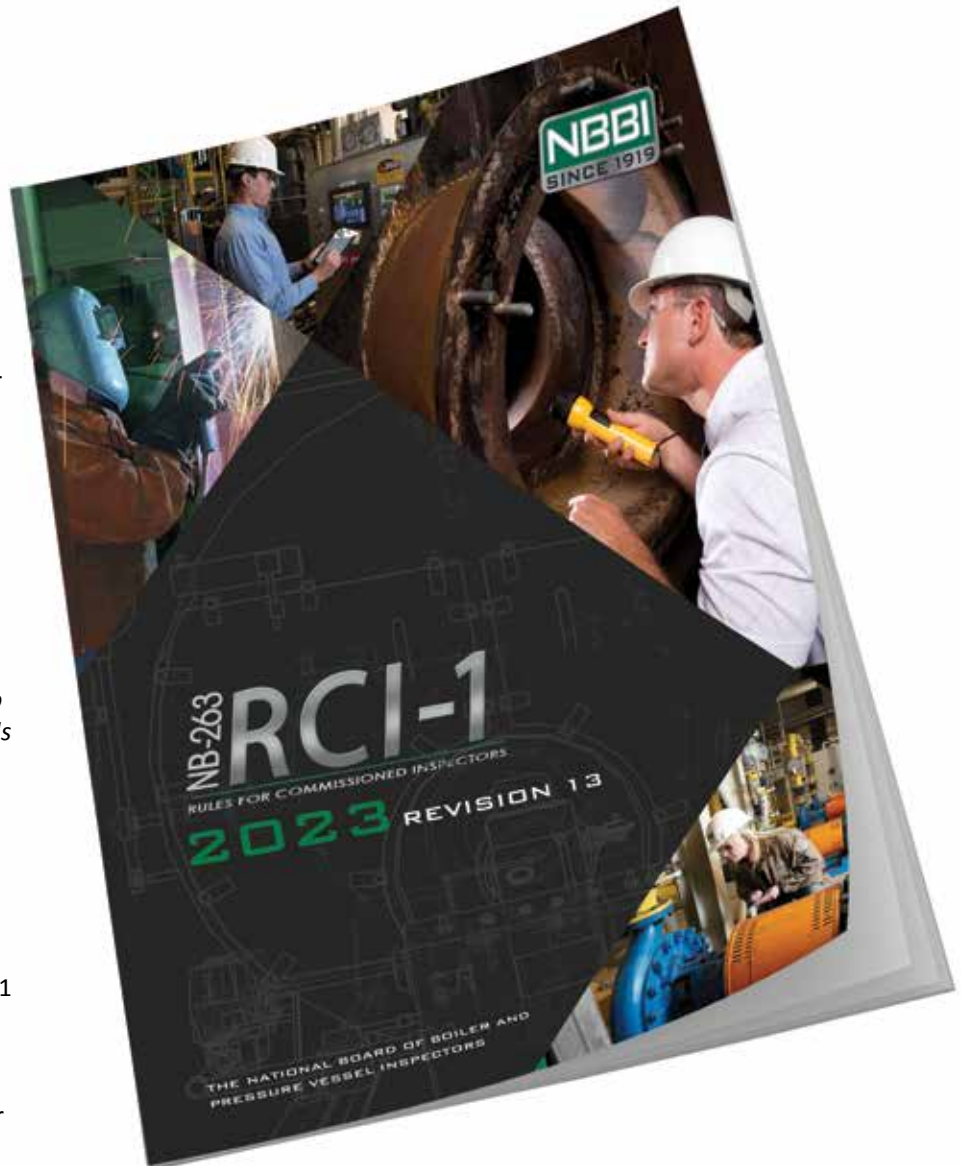


Table 2 Qualifications for Inspector Endorsements R

Further, the committee recognized the difficulty in obtaining all required on-the-job training (OJT) at National Board R stamped repair organizations. The qualifying requirements for the R endorsement related to OJT were revised. Additional OJT is no longer required for holders of an AI commission. The committee believed the OJT needed to obtain the AI commission was sufficient. Since much of the OJT revolves around reviewing welder qualifications, welding procedure specifications, material test report reviews, etc., which are similar in both *American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* and the *National Board Inspection Code* (NBIC), hours may now be obtained by a blend of both.

The Repair Inspector Qualifications table now reads:

- Satisfactory completion of the National Board Repair Inspector Course (R).
- Holds either an Inservice Commission (IS) or an Authorized Inspector Commission (AI).

Holder of an IS commission:

Eighty (80) hours of on-the-job training, under the direct supervision of a Repair Inspector or Repair Inspector Supervisor/ Technical Manager, in the inspection of repairs/alterations in accordance with the NBIC. A maximum of forty (40) hours of this on-the-job training may be obtained from meeting Authorized Inspector on-the-job training (see Table 1, AI Commission).

Eighty (80) hours on-the-job training in the inspection of repairs/alterations in accordance with the NBIC at either shop or field locations. A maximum of eight

(8) hours as a Repair Inspector trainee participating as an observer in a joint review for a National Board Certificate of Authorization may be credited towards the eighty (80) hour on-the-job training qualification requirement.

Part 2: National Board Commission and Endorsement Examinations

Early in 2022, NBBI was able to contract with a vendor who could host all NBBI commission and endorsement examinations. With this new capability, the need to differentiate between exams that could be taken remotely and exams that could not was removed. This allowed the language to be consolidated and condensed. It now reads as follows:

2-0 SCOPE

This Part describes the requirements for:

- Commission & Endorsement Examinations
- Passing the Examination
- Re-Examination

2-1 COMMISSION & ENDORSEMENT EXAMINATIONS

Commission & endorsement examinations or re-examinations are administered upon completion of any requisite National Board course as described in Part 1. Exams may be taken at:

2-1.1 Any On-Demand provider location (scheduled at any time).

2-1.2 Eligible National Board member jurisdictions (upon request to the jurisdiction), on the first Wednesday in March, June, September, or December of each year.

2-1.3 *The National Board offices.*

2-1.4 *Other locations approved by the Executive Director.*

2-2 PASSING THE EXAMINATION

A score of 70 percent or more is required to pass National Board examinations. Information about each examination is available on the National Board's Business Center/Education Center (national-board.org).

2-3 RE-EXAMINATION

An applicant failing an examination may be eligible to take another examination. An applicant who fails the examination three (3) times in a twelve (12) month period shall not be permitted to take the examination for at least twelve (12) months following the last attempt.

a) Be under the complete administrative control of the Authorized Inspection Agency employing the Inspector.

b) Be secured in such a way as to prevent revisions, additions, or deletions to entries which have been previously logged in the diary. Entries shall be made in such a way so that no information can be entered between previously entered text, lines, or other information.

c) Contain a means for other AIA personnel, such as alternate Inspectors or Supervisors, within the Authorized Inspection Agency to review diary entries, as required.

d) Electronic diaries shall include a provision for signatures by a PIN (Personal Identification Number) or other secure means.

Part 3: Inservice Inspection

Paragraph 3-1 related to Inservice Inspector Supervisors and Technical Managers sub paragraph 3-1.7 was struck as the requirement was incorporated into other organizational documents.

Part 6: Inspector Diary, Monitoring and Use of Commissions

Section 6-2 was revised and consolidated to ensure paper and electronic diaries had consistent requirements between the two. It now reads:

6-2 DESCRIPTION OF THE INSPECTOR DIARY

6-2.1 The diary shall be either bound (not loose-leaf) or electronic and shall as a minimum:

Glossary of Terms

- Removed parts c) and d) of Employment definition which is now covered in other accreditation documents.

The 2023 Edition of RCI-1 will be available this fall. All active NBBI Commissioned Inspectors will be mailed a complimentary copy. It becomes permissive to use on January 1, 2023 and will be mandatory July 1, 2023. The CQI is now focused on the 2025 Edition of RCI-1, along with the other documents it is tasked to maintain. ♣