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Acquisition

QUALITY ASSURANCE

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Quality weapon systems, end items, supplies and services are those that are affordable and work as intended and at the time they are needed. Such items are essential to successful Air Force operations. The Air Force will establish essential quality standards and controls during all phases of a weapon system life cycle to assure Operational Safety, Suitability, and Effectiveness (OSS&E) and affordability. This directive assigns responsibilities for defining and overseeing the standards, objectives and controls for each life cycle phase, collectively referred to as the Quality Assurance Program. It implements DoD guidance provided to the Air Force in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, Part 246, Quality Assurance, service contract quality assurance requirements in FAR 37.6, *Performance-Based Contracting*, current edition and secondary item acquisition quality assurance requirements in DoD 4140.1-R, DoD Materiel Management Regulation. It applies to both the Air National Guard and to the Air Force Reserve Command. Maintain and dispose of all records created by this AFD IAW AFMAN 37-139, "Records Disposition Schedule."

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

It clarifies quality assurance responsibilities for organizations and updates terminology. It cancels the requirement for a metric for measuring and annual reporting of policy compliance to HQ USAF. Consequently, RCS:SAF-AQR(A)9311, Quality Assurance Metric Report, is no longer required.

1. This document acts as a policy umbrella, applicable to all Air Force quality assurance efforts, and must be used in conjunction with AFI 63-1201, *Assurance of Operational Safety, Suitability and Effectiveness* and AFI 63-501, *Air Force Acquisition Quality Program*. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics (HQ USAF/IL), the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition (SAF/AQ) and the Under Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/US) shall develop and issue implementing guidance and objectives applicable to their areas of responsibility. In addition, HQ USAF/IL, SAF/AQ and SAF/US shall monitor implementation for which they are responsible to ensure that quality requirements are met.

1.1. All organizations that impact quality in design, development, test, purchasing, production, storage, distribution, operation, maintenance, modification, and disposal must assure quality requirements and standards are consistently met. This assurance will provide necessary confidence that adequate technical requirements are established, products conform to established technical requirements, satisfactory performance is achieved and quality objectives are realized.

1.2. Program and buying offices are responsible to establish objectives, standards, requirements, controls, and performance-based outcomes to provide necessary confidence that adequate requirements are established; products and services comply with established requirements; and excellent performance is achieved.

1.3. All Air Force organizations are subject to and must follow Air Force Technical Order 00-35D-54, *USAF Deficiency Reporting and Investigating System*. Information collected by this system provides management with better visibility of quality of systems, end items and other essential supplies, services, and support. Interdepartmental or interagency deficiency reporting must also follow AFI 21-115, *Product Quality Deficiency Report Program*.

2. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:

2.1. SAF/AQ is responsible for acquisition quality assurance policy.

2.1.1. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science, Technology and Engineering (SAF/AQR) acts as the Air Force focal point and authority on matters related to acquisition quality policy, acquisition regulations, standards, career programs, and training. This authority includes the quality assurance process for (1) logistics functions provided under contract (e.g., maintenance and supply contracts) and (2) acquisition of systems, end items, and supplies.

2.1.2. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Contracting (SAF/AQC) oversees quality assurance policy involving service contracts except when higher level contract quality requirements apply (as directed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation, Part 46, *Quality Assurance*, current edition) in which case SAF/AQR is responsible.

2.2. HQ USAF/IL oversees quality assurance policy for organic logistics functions except those provided under contract. HQ USAF/IL is responsible for making sure that adequate policy exists for measuring the quality of secondary items, documenting trends in item nonconformance, and for undertaking aggressive measures at both wholesale and retail levels to identify and remove nonconforming items from the supply system per DoD 4140.1-R, Department of Defense Materiel Management Regulation.

2.2.1. The Director of Maintenance (HQ USAF/ILM) is responsible for product quality deficiency reporting policy.

2.3. The Under Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/US) is responsible for acquisition quality assurance policy of Air Force related space programs.

3. Lead commands for weapon systems will do the following:

3.1. Establish an interface with SAF/AQ on policy issues related to quality in acquisition of products and services.

3.2. Establish an interface with HQ USAF/IL on policy issues related to organic logistics quality in operations and maintenance.

- 3.3. Establish an interface with SAF/US on policy issues related to quality in acquisition of space related products and services
 - 3.4. Establish a management framework to monitor implementation and ensure compliance with quality assurance policy for products and services for each phase of acquisition.
 - 3.5. MAJCOMs and the Air National Guard will ensure that appropriate personnel are trained in the product quality deficiency reporting process and that defects and deficiencies are reported.
4. This policy directive implements the FAR, Part 46 (current edition), the Defense FAR Supplement (DFARS), Part 246, *Quality Assurance* (current edition); service contract quality assurance requirements in FAR 37.6, *Performance-Based Contracting*, current edition; and the secondary item acquisition quality assurance requirements in DoD 4140.1-R, *DoD Materiel Management Regulation*.
 5. Guidance applicable to quality assurance in service contracting is incorporated in AFI 63-124, *Performance-Based Service Contracts*. Additional guidance is required for implementing this policy directive in other major areas of importance. As a minimum the following actions are required:
 - 5.1. SAF/AQ will ensure that comprehensive implementing guidance applicable to acquisition quality assurance is developed and maintained.
 - 5.2. HQ USAF/IL will ensure that comprehensive implementing guidance applicable to organic quality assurance is developed and maintained.
 - 5.3. SAF/US will ensure that implementing guidance applicable to acquisition quality assurance for space programs is developed and maintained.
 6. See [Attachment 1](#) for a glossary of references and an explanation of terms.

JAMES G. ROCHE
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 21-115, *Product Quality Deficiency Report Program*

AFI 63-1201, *Assurance of Operational Safety, Suitability and Effectiveness*

AFI 63-124, *Performance-Based Service Contracts*

Air Force Technical Order 00-35D-54, *USAF Deficiency Reporting and Investigating System*

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement

DoD 4140.1-R, *Department of Defense Materiel Management Regulation*

Federal Acquisition Regulation

Terms

Principal item—An end item or a replacement assembly of such importance to operational readiness that management techniques require centralized individual item management throughout the supply system to include items stocked at depot level, base level, and using unit level (DoD 4140.1-R).

Secondary item—An item that is not defined as a principal item and includes reparable components, subsystems, and assemblies, consumable repair parts, bulk items and material, subsistence, and expendable end items, including clothing and other personal gear (DoD 4140.1-R).