



SUPPLIER QUALITY ASSURANCE MANUAL



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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This manual aims to provide guidance to ASC suppliers about their Quality Management System (QMS) obligations and requirements for the supply and refurbishment of goods and/or services to ASC's Collins Class Submarine (CCSM) program.

Note: for the purpose of this manual wherever the term "supplier" is used it can be taken to include (where applicable) contractor, subcontractor and sub-tier suppliers.

1.2 Scope

This manual is applicable to all ASC purchases of goods and services under ASC's purchase order terms and conditions (PO) and applicable contracts in support of the ASC CCSM program.

1.3 Definitions and Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AICIP	Australian Institute for the Certification of Inspection Personnel
AINDT	Australian Institute for Non-Destructive Testing
ASC	ASC Pty Ltd
CCSM	Collins Class Submarines
CMS	Corporate Management System
CoA	Commonwealth of Australia
CoC	Certificate of Conformance
DoD MIL HDBK	Department of Defense (USA) Military Handbook
FTP	File Transfer Portal
IMTE	Inspection Measuring and Testing Equipment
IP	Intellectual Property
ISO	International Standards Organisation
ITAR	International Traffic in Arms Regulations
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Corporation
ITP	Inspection and Test Plan
MDR	Manufacturers Data Report
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
OQE	Objective Quality Evidence
PO	Purchase Order
QA	Quality Assurance
QMS	Quality Management System
SDS	Safety Data Sheet
SQA	Supplier Quality Assurance
SQAM	Supplier Quality Assurance Manual
SQQ	Supplier Qualification Questionnaire
US	United States (of America)
WHS&E	Work Health Safety and Environment

1.4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The content and effectiveness of this manual will be monitored and evaluated via metrics and key performance indicators associated with the Supplier Quality Assurance (SQA) audit schedule and reported to management accordingly.

1.5 ASC Vision, Mission and Values

ASC's Vision: To be an enduring and integral part of Australia's maritime strategy and national security.

ASC's Mission: Our mission is to safely build and maintain Australia's frontline naval ships and submarines to world class performance and quality standards.

ASC's Values and Behaviours: Strongly held corporate values are an important element of the strategic framework that underpins successful companies. ASC employees aspire to a set of values and exhibit corresponding behaviours, which are the guiding principles that define how we conduct our business and what we stand for as a company. ASC's corporate values are:

- Service
- Safety
- Leadership
- Integrity
- Results
- Innovation

1.6 Customer/Supplier Relationship and Feedback

ASC is fully committed to maintaining a good relationship with all of its suppliers.

ASC believes that without the assistance and commitment of its suppliers, the requirements specified in this manual cannot be adequately achieved.

Suppliers should contact ASC Supply Chain personnel in the event that any requirement contained in an ASC contract, PO or this manual is not fully understood.

1.7 Supplier Approval Process (Evaluation and Approval)

To be included in the ASC Approved Suppliers List, suppliers will undergo systematic levels of reviews and checks which may also include on-site SQA audits by ASC Quality Assurance (QA) and Supply Chain Departments.

As part of this approval and re-approval process, suppliers shall be requested by ASC Supply Chain to complete a Supplier Qualification Questionnaire (SQQ), which must be submitted together with supporting documentation (as specified in the SQQ), prior to being awarded 'ASC Supplier' status. This questionnaire can be found at www.asc.com.au under 'Industry Partners', 'Supply Chain'.

Once suppliers have been approved, ASC QA and Supply Chain Departments may conduct regular quality audits, including on-site visits, to ensure the supplier can consistently meet ASC quality, safety and delivery requirements.

1.8 Right of Access

During the course of the relationship between ASC and the supplier as an active approved supplier, ASC may (with reasonable notice) require access to the supplier's manufacturing/production areas and/or the supplier's sub-tier facilities for auditing purposes and for assessing capability processes to meet the ASC PO/contract requirements.

1.9 Mutual Recognition for Test Laboratories

ASC requires all testing (mechanical, chemical, non-destructive or calibration testing) to be performed by and/or traceable back to a suitable laboratory accredited to ISO 17025. Acceptable national certification bodies will be members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Corporation (ILAC). The approved Australian certification body is the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), which is a member of ILAC. All International testing laboratories shall be affiliated with ILAC.

2. Requirements

2.1 General Expectations of ASC Suppliers

Suppliers are expected to maintain an effective QMS based on the requirements of ISO 9001 (latest version) unless otherwise agreed, in which case the minimum requirements of this SQAM must be implemented and maintained.

ASC expects suppliers to share its commitment to meeting ASC's end customer requirements for quality, technical performance and on-time delivery. This can be achieved through flexibility in assisting ASC to meet its end goal which can be achieved by implementing continuous improvement initiatives and business continuity plans.

All suppliers are responsible for ensuring compliance to the requirements contained in this manual and are responsible for the quality, timeliness and integrity of delivered goods and services, including those provided by sub-tier suppliers/manufacturers/mills.

All delivered goods and services must comply fully with ASC's quality requirements, including the provision of appropriate Objective Quality Evidence (OQE) documentation.

All OQE for commodity items shall comply with the ASC Attributes defined in section 2.16 of this manual.

2.2 Work Health Safety and Environment (WHS&E)

Suppliers are responsible for all aspects of WHS&E connected with the goods and services supplied to ASC and must at their own cost comply with all WHS&E related legislation (including the WHS Commonwealth Act and associated Regulations) that is in any way applicable to the goods and services supplied, including in respect of their sub-tier suppliers or subcontractors.

Suppliers must demonstrate to ASC that they have the necessary knowledge, ability and resources to comply with all applicable WHS&E legislation and, on request, must provide ASC with all necessary information to allow ASC to properly assess the supplier's capacity to provide goods/services in accordance with all relevant WHS&E legislation.

Suppliers providing services at ASC sites will also be required to demonstrate compliance through:

- Work, Health & Safety Management Plans
- Environmental Management Plans
- Competency and licensing of personnel
- Risk Registers and Assessments

Suppliers must notify ASC immediately of any incident or event occurring in connection with the supply of goods or services to ASC that is in breach of or is notifiable under the relevant WHS&E legislation.

ASC requires suppliers to provide a copy of their environmental and WHS policies detailing environmental and safety commitments. ASC highly recommends suppliers maintain ISO 14001 and ISO 18001 or AS/NZS 4801 certification to demonstrate commitment to environmental and safety performance or a system based on those requirements.

2.3 Sustainability

ASC sustainability's vision is to successfully carry out ASC's operations to minimise our environmental footprint and positively influence social, workforce and business outcomes.

As such, ASC values the consideration of the impacts on the environment, society and cost across the full lifecycle of products and services supplied to ASC. Where available the supplier will provide ASC with sustainability information for their operations, including how the supplier has worked to reduce the environmental impacts associated with the supply of their product or services to ASC.

Impacts ASC has identified as specifically relevant for its business include:

- Energy consumption;
- Pollution – Air/Water/Land;
- Water Resources;
- Waste Management and Recycling; and
- Carbon emissions.

2.4 Hazardous Materials/Hazardous Substances

When a hazardous material or substance (which may include, but not limited to, hazardous substances, dangerous goods and scheduled poisons) is to be delivered to ASC, the supplier must provide a material specification. A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) which is compliant with WHS regulations must be provided with all hazardous materials or substances.

Hazardous Materials: Materials which because of chemical, biochemical, microbiological or radiological properties, temperature or state of compression could, in sufficient concentration, cause:

- Harm to human health and safety or personal injury,
- Property damage; and
- Environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

Hazardous Substances: Substances that are listed on Safe Work Australia - Hazardous Substances Information System (HSIS) found at <http://hcis.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/> or determined to be a hazardous substance by the manufacturer, importer or distributor of the substance.

Problematic Substances: The supplier must supply to ASC in advance of delivery to site, or upon identification of such a substance, information regarding the proposed use of a chemical listed in Schedule 14 of the WHS regulations, and ensure no chemicals listed in Schedule 10 of the WHS regulations are brought to an ASC site unless specifically approved for use by ASC.

2.5 Purchase Order/Contract Requirements

Suppliers are expected to be able to demonstrate that they have a process that ensures they fully understand ASC's PO or contract requirements.

If a supplier is uncertain about any aspect of what ASC has ordered, the supplier must contact ASC as soon as practical to resolve this uncertainty prior to incurring any costs or committing to supply.

2.6 Inwards, Outwards and In-process Goods Assurance/Controls

Suppliers to ASC are expected to be able to demonstrate they have processes for the management of Goods Inwards, Goods Outwards and In-process QA/Inspection activities.

Suppliers must ensure that goods undergo the required level of checks and balances (e.g. visual inspections, traceability checks, sample dimensional inspections) as specified by ASC, via Technical Specifications (TS) or as contractually agreed during production and prior to delivery.

2.7 Handling of ASC Supplied Materials

Customer (ASC) supplied materials must undergo the same level of Inwards Goods inspection and traceability control as any other materials purchased by the supplier.

Where required, Inwards Goods inspections must include sample dimensional inspection, visual inspection and marking/traceability checks (validated against the delivered certification/OQE).

Material traceability must be maintained up until the point of use in production.

Unused material (including off cuts/remnants) must be marked and remain fully traceable up until the point of use in the supplier's production or return to ASC.

ASC recommends that suppliers photograph ASC supplied plant and equipment on receipt as a record of the condition of these items when transferred to the supplier's control.

2.8 Control of Sub-tier Suppliers

It is a requirement that all ASC direct suppliers can demonstrate they maintain effective control over their sub-tier suppliers (e.g. manufacturers/mills) including a process for monitoring the performance of sub-tier suppliers.

Direct suppliers to ASC must (on request) provide to ASC the necessary OQE to confirm that their sub-tier suppliers have been adequately assessed and are approved to supply.

The supplier must flow down all ASC PO requirements (e.g. technical/OQE requirements) to their sub-tier suppliers. The expectation of sub-tier suppliers to ASC is the same as the requirements detailed in this manual, particularly in relation to the controls, restrictions and protocols with ITAR, IP and Commercial-in-Confidence documentation.

ASC may undertake quality audits of a suppliers sub-tier suppliers on a case by case basis.

2.9 Internal Audit

Suppliers are expected to be able to demonstrate that they maintain an effective internal audit program that meets the requirements of ISO 9001 (latest version).

2.10 Control of Non-Conforming Products and Services

Suppliers shall ensure that products that do not conform to requirements are identified and controlled to prevent their unintended use or delivery. Appropriate action based on the nature of the non-conformance of products and services shall be taken. This applies also to products and services discovered during or following delivery.

If a non-conforming product or service is provided, ASC will advise the supplier of the non-conformance. A triggered audit may be undertaken and a formal non-conformance raised and monitored with the supplier. In exceptional cases removal of the supplier from the Approved Supplier List may be considered.

2.11 Qualified and Trained Personnel

It is a requirement that the supplier can provide evidence of its employees' current training and skills including all relevant personnel qualifications, certificate expiry dates (as applicable) and information pertaining to the skills relevant to tasks to be undertaken for ASC work. Suppliers must satisfy ASC that there is a system in place to maintain currency of delegations, licences and qualifications relevant to the scope of work.

2.12 Control of Design Development Planning

Suppliers shall plan and control the design and development of good and services.

During the design and development planning, the organisation shall determine:

- The design and development stages
- The review, verification and validation (including Inspection and Test Plans) that are appropriate to each design and development stage
- The responsibilities and authorities for design and development

The organisation shall manage the interfaces between different groups involved in design and development to ensure effective communication and clear assignment of responsibility. Planning output shall be updated, as appropriate, as the design and development progresses.

2.13 Inspection and Testing Planning (ITP) Applicability/Controls

Where a PO/contract OQE requires a supplier to submit an ITP to ASC, the supplier's ITP document will be subject to ASC approval and must be submitted prior to commencement of work.

As part of ASC's approval of the supplier's ITP, ASC may add hold and witness points at its discretion; when hold and/or witness points are required to be observed the supplier must inform ASC of the upcoming event with adequate notice in accordance with the terms of the ITP.

Hold points shall not to be conducted without an ASC representative present unless the hold point has been formally waived by ASC. Evidence of waivers must be retained and be submitted with the ITP as OQE.

As an exception witness points may be conducted on the assigned date without ASC's presence if appropriate notification had been provided to ASC. Evidence of this notification must be retained and be submitted with the ITP as OQE.

The ITP document must contain sufficient information to identify what inspection and/or testing will be carried out to meet PO/contract requirements and must be signed and dated by an ASC Engineering representative to authorise the ITP. It is the supplier's responsibility to ensure ASC endorses the ITP prior to commencement of work.

2.14 Inspection Measuring and Testing Equipment (IMTE) – Calibration

All equipment used for qualifying ASC final goods must be traceable back to a ILAC/NATA (ISO 17025) endorsed certification and be maintained in a manner that protects ASC from receiving non-conforming goods.

A register including history of all IMTE used on ASC work must be maintained in order to capture the latest test date, validity, including periodicity of calibration. The IMTE must also contain a unique serial number or identifier to assist with traceability in the event of a non-conformance.

The supplier's IMTE calibration procedure must ensure the validity of previous measuring results should any IMTE be found to be defective or out of calibration.

ASC must be notified in the event of potential and/or non-conforming goods and services as a result of the calibration of IMTE.

Calibration of all IMTE used on ASC work must be conducted or traceable back to an ILAC or NATA (ISO 17025) accredited laboratory for the category of that instrument, and certificates of calibration must be endorsed where available. Laboratories accredited by ILAC / NATA must be registered on the relevant national body website.

2.15 Testing Laboratories and Inspection Providers

All Non Destructive Testing shall be completed by suitably qualified operators to ISO: 9172 (minimum level 2) by a relevant certification body, such as Australian Institute for Non-Destructive Testing (AINDT) or international equivalent. All NDT reports shall be issued by a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 on an endorsed (ILAC/NATA) certificate.

All laboratories performing Mechanical and Chemical testing shall be issued by a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 on an endorsed (ILAC/NATA) certificate.

All facilities performing pressure equipment inspections on pressure vessels (new or In-service) shall ensure the operators are suitably experienced and qualified by a relevant certification body

such as Australian Institute for the Certification of Inspection Personnel (AICIP) in Australia or international equivalent.

2.16 Manufacturers Data Report (MDR)

A folder or similar which contains all the required OQE documentation shall be supplied with the goods to confirm compliance to the required standards and PO/contract requirements.

2.17 Objective Quality Evidence Requirements (OQE)

Provision of clear and unambiguous OQE is essential to ensure that goods and services meet ASC technical and contractual requirements. OQE requirements must be provided for individual line items as specified in the PO or contract unless otherwise stated.

The Master List of OQE Attributes for Commodities supplied to ASC can be found at www.asc.com.au, under 'Supply Chain', 'Master List of OQE Attributes'.

If unclear on what OQE is required and in what format, the supplier must consult ASC before actioning the PO or contract.

2.18 Opening and Closing Reports (for refurbished goods)

PO for the refurbishment of ASC plant and equipment may require an Opening and Closing report to be provided as part of the delivered OQE. This report should include photos that clearly capture the condition of plant and equipment as received, a clear list of parts required to refurbish the plant and equipment and photos of the refurbished item prior to dispatch to ASC.

The Opening report should clearly identify items that would not normally require replacement or areas of concern that ASC Engineering should be made aware of.

2.19 Product Marking/Traceability/Packaging and Preservation

Each item delivered to satisfy a PO/contract must be identified with the following information (where applicable):

- PO/contract number and revision number
- PO line/item number
- Item description
- ASC part number (NATO Stock Number or ASC Catalogue Number)
- Quantity
- Manufacturer's part number, identification of OEM and country of origin
- Controlled goods identification (non ITAR).

Unless specified in the PO or contract packaging of items is to be at the discretion of the supplier and is to be appropriate for the method of transport and for the storage/shelf life requirements of the item.

2.20 ASC Quality Requirements for Shelf Life Products

Shelf Life Products (e.g. synthetic rubber, epoxies, paints, adhesives, sealants and fastener-locking compounds) must comply fully with ASC OQE attributes and the information supplied on the product CoC must contain the following:

- Lot traceability number or batch number
- Shelf life expiration date/use by date (in accordance with specification)
- Cure dates and Shore Hardness as applicable

Shelf life products must be stored correctly and have a minimum of 85% of shelf life remaining upon receipt at ASC, unless agreed otherwise by ASC.

2.21 ASC Quality Requirements for Fasteners

Fastener material specification, dimensional specification and delivery conditions (e.g. surface treatment) must be clearly stated in the ASC PO and must be fully complied with.

Fastener Threads must be sample-inspected by the manufacturer or supplier to ensure conformance to the specified standards.

Fastener Surface Treatment; where specified in the PO/contract plating, galvanising, heat-treatment, etc. must be sample-inspected by the manufacturer or supplier to ensure complete coverage and conformance to the specified standards.

Fastener Marking; where stipulated in the PO/contract threaded fasteners must be marked in accordance with standards specified, e.g. carbon steel fasteners to ISO 898-1 & ISO 898-2, stainless Steel Fasteners to ISO 3506-1 & 3506-2 and must be identified by the manufacturer's marking symbol (including material grade).

Note: For guidance, threaded fasteners manufacturer's marking symbols are listed in *DoD Handbook MIL-HDBK 57 F, 21 June 2011, Listing of Fasteners Manufacturer's Identification Symbols*.

2.22 Technical Information and Export Controls

ASC may provide suppliers with Commercial-in-Confidence technical information and other technical information (including components and materials) that are subject to export control and Intellectual Property (IP) restrictions and handling procedures. These include the highly restrictive US International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), as well as other US, European Commission and Australian Export Regulations and restrictions on the use and receipt of Kockums IP.

All technical information must be handled strictly in accordance with stipulated restrictions and signed confidentiality agreements.

Export restricted items will be clearly identified as "Controlled Technology" and **must not** be disclosed to any unauthorised persons or commercial parties including employees, subcontractors, consultants, suppliers or sub-tier suppliers/manufacturers.

Controlled Technology and other technical information provided by ASC must only be used by the recipient in accordance with the terms of the contract/confidentiality agreement between ASC and the recipient or, in the absence of a contract, may only be used for the purpose it was provided. Unauthorised disclosure, reproduction or use of such data/components is prohibited by law, and severe penalties apply.

On completion of the contracted activities, the original information/technical data and any copies must be returned to ASC on request.

Suppliers are expected to be able to demonstrate to ASC that they adhere to the following requirements:

- Secure storage of Controlled Technology (hard copies and electronic data)
- Non-Disclosure Statements are in place when required
- Controls are in place to manage access and use of Controlled Technology, including by sub-tier suppliers
- Use of ASC File Transfer Portal (FTP) for secure transfer and acknowledgement of receipt of documents

2.23 Control and Retention of Quality Records

Suppliers are required to maintain effective control of quality records including the identification, storage, protection, retrieval, retention and disposition of records. All records associated with an ASC order shall be retained for a minimum of 12 years.