


ANSI/ASQC C1-1996

# AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

## *Specification of General Requirements for a Quality Program*



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY CONTROL  
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## ***Specification of General Requirements for a Quality Program***

*[Reaffirmation of ANSI/ASQC C1-1985]*

*Prepared by  
American Society for Quality Control Standards Committee  
for  
American National Standards Committee Z-1 on Quality Assurance  
  
An American National Standard Approved on February 26, 1996*

*Abstract: Specification of General Requirements for a Quality Program* concerns the establishment and maintenance of a quality program by a contractor to assure compliance with contract requirements in the areas of quality management, design information, procurement, manufacture, acceptance, and documentation.

*American National Standards:* An American National Standard implies a consensus of those substantially concerned with its scope and provisions. An American National Standard is intended as a guide to aid the manufacturer, the consumer, and the general public. The existence of an American National Standard does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether he or she has approved the standard or not, from manufacturing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standard. American National Standards are subject to periodic review and users are cautioned to obtain the latest edition.

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ASQC Mission: To facilitate continuous improvement and increase customer satisfaction by identifying, communicating, and promoting the use of quality principles, concepts, and technologies; and thereby be recognized throughout the world as the leading authority on, and champion for, quality.

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## Foreword

(This foreword is not part of American National Standard ANSI/ASQC C1-1996, *General Requirements for a Quality Program*.)

The Standards Committee of the American Society for Quality Control was formed in 1947, being “authorized to study and select symbols, concepts, terms, procedures, and other matters which it feels the Society might standardize to advantage and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding such standardization.”

The Standards Committee requires periodic review and reaffirmation or revision of ASQC standards at regular intervals. This standard is a reaffirmation of ANSI/ASQC C1-1985, which was a revision of the 1968 version.

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## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A QUALITY PROGRAM

### 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

#### 1.1 Quality Program

The documented plans for implementing the quality system.

#### 1.2 Quality System

The organizational structure, responsibilities, procedures, processes, and resources for implementing quality management.

#### 1.3 Inspection

Activities, such as measuring, examining, testing, gauging one or more characteristics of a product or service, and comparing these with specified requirements to determine conformity.

#### 1.4 Affected Organization

A term used herein to designate the individual or organization on whom this American National Standard is imposed.

#### 1.5 Specifying Organization

A term used herein to designate the individual or organization that imposes this American National Standard on a contractor, vendor, supplier, or an internal organization.

#### 1.6 Other ANSI/ISO/ASQC Definitions

Attention is called to the existence of additional definitions, including "quality plan," which are contained in ANSI/ISO/ASQC A8402-1994, *Quality Management and Quality Assurance—Vocabulary*.

### 2. SCOPE

#### 2.1 Applicability

When this American National Standard is prescribed or specified by contract or management directive, it provides a specification of the general requirements to be met by the

quality program of a contractor or other organization. All the requirements apply except to the extent that they are specifically deleted, supplemented, or amended in the contract or directive.

#### 2.2 General Purpose

This American National Standard was designed to provide a description of the basic quality principles essential to the assurance of quality.

It is intended that it be imposed internally by management and externally through both sales and purchase contracts. Broad use of this American National Standard is intended to minimize the number of nonstandard and conflicting quality requirements that otherwise will be found in sales and purchase contracts.

This American National Standard requires the establishment and maintenance of a quality program by the Affected Organization and by its contractors and subcontractors to assure adequate control and assurance of quality. The quality program, including its procedures and operations, shall be documented and shall be subject to review by the Specifying Organization. The program shall apply to the control of quality throughout all areas of performance, including as appropriate, the design, procurement, identification, stocking, and issue of material; the entire process of manufacture; and the packaging, storing, and shipping of material.

The program shall provide that, as early as possible, discrepancies (product nonconformities and program deficiencies) shall be discovered, reported, and corrective action taken.

#### 2.3 Other ANSI/ISO/ASQC Quality System Standards

Attention is called to the existence of other system standards, including Q9000-1-1994 through Q9004-1-1994, quality management and quality assurance standards. These are equivalent to the International Standards Organization (ISO) 9000 series standards.