

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Quality Systems Terminology



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY CONTROL
310 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

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Foreword

This Foreword is not a part of the American National Standard *Quality Systems Terminology*.

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." One resultant standard was ASQC A3-1964 on "Quality Systems Terminology" which was revised in 1971.

In 1978, a revision was made representing a change in the emphasis and format from the 1971 standard. Whereas the original standard included terms that simultaneously appeared in the A1 standard on control charts and the A2 standard on acceptance sampling, the 1978 revision was restricted to quality systems terminology. The style of presentation was expanded to include extensive comments both to provide more complete explanations and to permit comparison with related definitions. This 1987 revision continues in the same format and, in addition, includes some changes and additions so as to be in agreement with ISO 3534 and ISO 8402 whenever possible.

Scope

The scope of this document is intended to cover basic definitions dealing with quality management, quality systems, quality plans, quality assurance, and quality control for general use within United States commerce and industry.

Writing Committee

Comments or suggestions for improvement will be welcomed and should be sent to the chairman, Professor Harrison M. Wadsworth, at Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Systems and Industrial Engineering, Atlanta, Georgia 30332, or the the sponsor of the standard, American Society for Quality Control, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203.

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