



AEROSPACE STANDARD

AS6174™**REV. B**Issued 2012-05
Revised 2026-02

Superseding AS6174A

(R) Counterfeit Materiel; Assuring Acquisition of Authentic and Conforming Materiel

RATIONALE

AS6174B is updated to reflect current anti-counterfeit practices and policies. This revision clarifies requirements for a materiel authenticity plan, management of materiel availability, risk mitigation, and obsolescence risks. It establishes requirements for records, personnel training, and self-assessment. This standard also updates investigation, materiel control, and procurement requirements to align with published commodity-specific counterfeit prevention aerospace standards (refer to AS6886, AS6832, and AS6834).

FOREWORD

To assure customer satisfaction, industry organizations must produce, and continually improve, safe, reliable Materiel that meets or exceeds customer and regulatory authority requirements. The globalization of industry and the resulting diversity of regional/national requirements and expectations has complicated this objective. End-product organizations face the challenge of assuring the quality and integrity of Materiel purchased from suppliers throughout the world and at all levels within the supply chain. Suppliers and processors face the challenge of delivering Materiel to multiple customers having varying quality expectations and requirements.

This document standardizes requirements, practices, and methods related to: (a) materiel management, parts management, supply chain management, procurement, inspection, test/evaluation to assure the authenticity and conformance of Materiel being acquired; and (b) response strategies when Suspect Counterfeit Materiel and/or Counterfeit Materiel (hereafter referenced as Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel) is discovered.

This standard does not apply to electrical, electronic, and electromechanical (EEE) parts; refer to AS5553.

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1. SCOPE

1.1 Purpose

This SAE Standard provides requirements and guidance to:

- a. Develop a Materiel authenticity plan.
- b. Procure Materiel from reliable sources.
- c. Assure authenticity and conformance of procured Materiel, including methods such as certification, traceability, testing, and inspection appropriate to the Commodity/item in question.
- d. Control Materiel identified as counterfeit.
- e. Report Suspect or Counterfeit Materiel to other potential users and Authorities Having Jurisdiction.

1.2 Application

This standard is for use by Organizations that procure Materiel, whether such Materiel is procured directly or integrated into assemblies or equipment. The requirements of this standard are generic and intended to be applied/flowed down to all supplier organizations that procure Materiel, regardless of type, size, and Commodity provided.

The requirements of this document are intended to be used in conjunction with a higher-level quality standard (e.g., AS9100, ISO 9001, ASQ/ANSI E4, ASME NQA-1, AS9120) and other quality management system documents. These requirements are not intended to stand alone, supersede, or cancel requirements found in other quality management system documents, requirements imposed by contracting authorities, or applicable laws and regulations unless an authorized exemption/variance has been obtained.

In addition to AS6174, the SAE G21 committee has developed and published commodity-specific Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel risk mitigation standards as follows (see 2.2.1):

- AS6832 - applies to fasteners
- AS6834 - applies to bearings
- AS6886 - applies to refrigerant

When AS6174 is invoked in a contract, the commodity-based standards do not apply unless specifically invoked in the contract.

Additional commodity-based counterfeit risk mitigation standards are under development and should be included in future revisions of AS6174.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this document to the extent specified herein. For references with dates, only the edition cited applies. For references without dates, the latest edition of the referenced document applies. When a commodity specific standard (e.g., AS6886, AS6832, and AS6834) has been published, the applicable commodity standard requirements take precedence over conflicting requirements within AS6174. In the event of conflict between the text of this document and other references cited herein, the text of this document takes precedence. Nothing in this document, however, supersedes applicable laws and regulations unless a specific exemption has been obtained.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (U.S. and Canada only) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside U.S. and Canada), www.sae.org.

AIR6273	Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms, Counterfeit Material or Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Parts
AS5553	Counterfeit Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical (EEE) Parts; Avoidance, Detection, Mitigation, and Disposition
AS6832	Counterfeit Material, Assuring Acquisition of Authentic and Conforming Fasteners
AS6834	Counterfeit Material; Assuring Acquisition of Authentic and Conforming Bearings
AS6886	Counterfeit Material: Assuring Acquisition and Use of Authentic and Conforming Refrigerant
AS9100	Quality Management Systems - Requirements for Aviation, Space, and Defense Organizations
AS9120	Quality Management Systems - Requirements for Aviation, Space, and Defense Distributors
STD-0016	Standard for Preparing a DMSMS Management Plan

2.1.2 ANSI Publications

Copies of these documents are available online at <https://webstore.ansi.org>.

ASQ/ANSI E4	Quality management systems for environmental information and technology programs—Requirements with guidance for use
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2.1.3 ASME Publications

Available from ASME, Two Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990, Tel: 800-843-2763 (U.S./Canada), 001-800-843-2763 (Mexico), 646-616-3100 (outside North America), www.asme.org.

NQA-1	Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications
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2.1.4 IEC Publications

Available from IEC Secretariat, 3 rue de Varembe, PO Box 131, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Tel: +41 22 919 0211, www.iec.ch.

IEC 62402	Obsolescence Management
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2.1.5 ISO Publications

Available from International Organization for Standardization, ISO Central Secretariat, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41 22 749 01 11, www.iso.org/store.

ISO 9000	Quality Management Systems - Fundamentals and Vocabulary
ISO 9001	Quality Management Systems - Requirements
ISO 15459	Information technology - Unique identifiers
ISO/IEC 17025	General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories

2.1.6 U.S. Government Publications

Copies of this document are available online at www.acquisition.gov.

FAR 52.246-15 Certificate of Conformance

Copies of this document are available online at www.congress.gov.

Fastener Quality Act of 1990, Public Law 101-592

Copies of these documents are available online at <https://quicksearch.dla.mil>.

MIL-STD-11991 General Standard for Parts, Materials, and Processes

SD-19 Parts Management Guide

SD-22 Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (DMSMS) Guidebook

SD-25 Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) Operating Policies and Procedures

2.2 Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIR SAE designation prefix for Aerospace Information Report

ANSI American National Standards Institute

AS SAE designation prefix for Aerospace Standard

DMS Diminishing Manufacturing Sources

DMSMS Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages

DOD United States Department of Defense

GIDEP Government-Industry Data Exchange Program

IP Intellectual Property

IPR Intellectual Property Rights

ISO International Organization for Standardization

IUID Item Unique Identification

MIL-STD Military Standard

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

OIG Office of Inspector General

OQE Objective Quality Evidence

SD DOD Defense Standardization Program Office prefix designation for Standard Document

STD Standard

UII Unique Item Identifier

2.3 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions stated in AIR6273, ISO 9000, and the following shall apply. The first letters of terms listed in 2.3 are capitalized in this document.

AFTERMARKET MANUFACTURER: A Manufacturer that meets one or both of the following criteria:

- a. The Manufacturer is authorized by the Original Manufacturer to produce and sell replacement Materiel, usually due to an Original Manufacturer's decision to discontinue production of Materiel. An Aftermarket Manufacturer may distribute Materiel produced by an Original Manufacturer or it may distribute Materiel it produced from dies, molds, or other manufacturing equipment that have been either 1, 2, or 3 below:
 1. Transferred from the Original Manufacturer to the Aftermarket Manufacturer
 2. Produced by the Aftermarket Manufacturer using Original Manufacturer tooling and intellectual property (IP)
 3. Produced by the Aftermarket Manufacturer through redesign to match the Original Manufacturer's specifications without violating the Original Manufacturer's intellectual property rights (IPR), patents, or copyrights
- b. The Manufacturer, other than an Original Manufacturer or a manufacturer authorized by the Original Manufacturer, which produces Materiel in compliance with the applicable specifications, standards, or requirements.

APPROVED SUPPLIER: Refer to AIR6273.

AUTHENTIC: Materiel that is neither Suspect Counterfeit nor Counterfeit.

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR: Refer to AIR6273.

AUTHORIZED SUPPLIER: Aftermarket Manufacturers and suppliers authorized by the Current Design Activity or the Original Manufacturer to produce and/or sell Materiel.

BATCH, LOT, OR HEAT LEVEL TRACEABILITY (alternately referred to as Batch/Lot/Heat Level Traceability): The requirement to trace life cycle management of a batch, lot, or heat of Materiel for specified events related to acquisition, validation of authenticity, property accountability, storage, operation, maintenance, safety, physical security, retirement, and disposal.

BROKER DISTRIBUTOR: Refer to AIR6273.

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMANCE (C of C, CoC): A document provided by a supplier formally declaring that all buyer purchase order requirements have been met. The document may include information such as Manufacturer, distributor, quantity, lot and/or date code, inspection date, etc., and is signed by a responsible party for the supplier.

NOTE: These documents will not meet the requirements of FAR 52.246-15 Certificate of Conformance, which has an entirely different meaning and use of the term "Certificate of Conformance."

CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY COMPLIANCE (COQC): A document signed by a responsible party for the supplier which states that the material, testing, or performance meets specified requirements.

COMMODITY: A grouping of similar material, e.g., fasteners, bearings, refrigerants, and batteries.

COUNTERFEIT MATERIEL: An unauthorized (a) copy, (b) imitation, (c) substitute, or (d) modified Materiel that is knowingly, recklessly, or negligently misrepresented as a genuine item.

NOTE 1: This definition may differ from civil or criminal laws that address the acts of counterfeiting or fraud and is not intended to make legal determination.

NOTE 2: Some Commodities have unique requirements relating to new versus used Materiel being considered counterfeit (e.g., refrigerant).

CURRENT DESIGN ACTIVITY: The organizational entity currently responsible for the design of Materiel. This may be the original design activity or a design activity to which the design responsibility has been transferred.

DESTRUCTIVE TESTING: A systematic, logical, detailed examination of Materiel during various stages of physical disassembly, conducted on a sample of completed Materiel from a given lot, wherein Materiel is examined for design, workmanship, and/or processing problems. See E.1.4 for additional information.

INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR: Refer to AIR6273.

ITEM LEVEL TRACEABILITY: The requirement to trace life cycle management of an individual item for specified events related to acquisition, validation of authenticity, property accountability, storage, operation, maintenance, safety, physical security, retirement, and disposal.

ITEM UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION (IUID): IUID is a Materiel identification system instituted by the DOD in accordance with ISO standards including ISO 15459 to uniquely identify a discrete tangible item and distinguish it from other like and/or unlike tangible items. Tangible items are distinguished from one another by the assignment of a unique item identifier (UII) in the form of a unique data string and encoded in a Data Matrix barcode symbol which is placed on the item. The same approach has been adopted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Air Transport Association, American National Standards Institute, individual companies, etc. A UII is only assigned to a single instance of an item and is never reused. Once assigned to an item, the UII is never changed, even if the item is modified or reengineered.

MANUFACTURER: Manufacturer in this standard refers to the point of origin of any Materiel covered by the standard, including factories, mills, foundries, mines, chemical plants, laboratories, etc.

MATERIEL: For the purposes of this document, Materiel refers to material, parts, assemblies, and other acquired items except for electrical, electronic, and electromechanical (EEE) parts and EEE assemblies. (Refer to AS5553 for EEE items.)

ORGANIZATION: In the context of this document, it refers to procurement and design activity entities and sub-tier Materiel suppliers and producers with the responsibility for compliance to AS6174.

ORGANIZATION WITH TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY: The Organization with Technical Responsibility for a Materiel is an entity with formal authority for the design, validation of performance and/or reliability, service, or repair support of the Materiel.

ORIGINAL MANUFACTURER: An entity that designs and/or engineers and produces Materiel and is pursuing or has obtained the intellectual property rights to that Materiel.

NOTE 1: The Materiel and/or its Packaging are typically identified with the Original Manufacturer's trademark.

NOTE 2: Original Manufacturers may contract out manufacturing and/or distribution of their product.

NOTE 3: Different Original Manufacturers may supply Materiel for the same application or to a common specification.

PACKAGING: Packaging refers to the way Materiel is enclosed, identified, and physically protected for storage, shipping, and/or installation.

REFURBISHED: Materiel that has been cleaned, freshened, painted, polished, or renovated to restore it to a "like new" condition.

SUPPLY CHAIN TRACEABILITY: Ability of a Materiel's chain of custody to be tracked to the originator of the Materiel.

SUSPECT COUNTERFEIT MATERIEL: Materiel for which there is objective and credible evidence indicating that it is likely counterfeit.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Materiel Authenticity Plan

The Organization shall develop, document, implement, and maintain a risk-based materiel authenticity plan which identifies the organizational processes used for risk identification, avoidance, detection, mitigation, disposition, and reporting of Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel.

- a. The materiel authenticity plan shall include the processes described in 3.1.1 through 3.1.9.
- b. The materiel authenticity plan and associated processes (including training) shall be updated as applicable based on evolving counterfeit risks, techniques, and trends.

NOTE: The materiel authenticity plan may be subject to customer approval.

3.1.1 Authentic Materiel Life Cycle Management

The Organization shall have a documented plan for management of Materiel availability and obsolescence risks. See guidance in Appendix A.

NOTE: When availability or obsolescence risks are identified, the resolution process should consider lifetime buys, alternate/multiple sources, adequate procurement lead time for development of new items or sources, redesign, or other appropriate mechanisms to proactively reduce the risk of exposure to Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel. The Organization should notify customers of availability and/or obsolescence risks and proposed actions.

3.1.2 Purchasing

The procurement/purchasing processes shall:

- a. Assess potential sources of supply to determine their likelihood of delivering Authentic and conforming Materiel.

NOTE: Assessment actions may include surveys, audits, review of materiel alerts, and review of supplier quality data to determine past performance. See guidance in Appendix B.

- b. Maintain a register of Approved Suppliers, including the scope of the approval. See guidance in Appendix B.
- c. When possible, procure directly from Original Manufacturers, Authorized Suppliers, or Approved Suppliers. When the Materiel is not available from these sources, then risk management provisions shall be incorporated from the materiel authenticity plan. See 3.1.2.e.
- d. Assess that approved/ongoing sources of supply are maintaining effective processes for delivery of Authentic and conforming Materiel.

NOTE: Examples of assurance actions include testing (e.g., destructive, nondestructive, functional, measurements), surveys, audits, review of materiel alerts, and review of supplier quality data to determine past performance.

- e. Develop, by the Organization's technical representatives, a documented risk assessment and risk mitigation plan which includes evaluating the risk and consequences of receipt and use of Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel (e.g., human safety, mission success) when the Organization procures from other than (1) Original Manufacturers, (2) Authorized Suppliers or (3) Approved Suppliers, or when a Materiel lacks Supply Chain Traceability.

- f. Perform Visual Inspection if risk mitigation is required and risk mitigation is not specified in the contract the Organization has with its customer. Perform Documentation and Packaging Inspection if documentation/packaging are required by the procurement.

NOTE: Visual Inspection, Documentation, and Packaging Inspection criteria are determined by the Organization. Guidance and information regarding industry best practices for Supply Chain Batch/Lot/Heat and Item Level Traceability are provided in Appendix C. Guidance and information regarding inspections and tests for risk mitigation are provided in Appendix E.

- g. Impose applicable requirements from this standard on the Organization's suppliers. See guidance in Appendix D.

3.1.3 Verification of Purchased Materiel

The Organization shall apply purchased Materiel verification in accordance with its quality management system. If risk mitigation is required for purchased Materiel, the Organization shall complete the risk mitigation prior to procured Materiel acceptance.

NOTE: Examples of verification actions include review of data deliverables, visual inspection (including research on marking requirements, Item Unique Identification [IUID] scan, testing, nondestructive evaluation, and Destructive Testing). Guidelines concerning the performance of risk-based Materiel assurance are provided in Appendix E.

3.1.4 Investigation

The Organization shall investigate Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel. When Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel is detected (i.e., in-process, post-acceptance, or in-service), the documented processes shall specify, as appropriate, verification, remedial action, reporting, and control of the Materiel.

3.1.5 Materiel Control

The documented processes shall specify methods for the Organization to:

- a. Prevent Materiel which was not subject to and accepted through all required operations from entering the supply chain as accepted Materiel.
- b. Control Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel to preclude its use or reentry into the supply chain by physically identifying and segregating the suspect Materiel from acceptable non-suspect Materiel and placing it in quarantine until dispositioned in accordance with the Organization's quality management system and/or statutory/contract requirements. Quarantine shall consist of secured space with access limited to authorized personnel.
- c. Prohibit Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel from being returned to its supplier, except samples which may be returned to the supplier under restricted conditions for investigative purposes. If further investigation determines the returned Materiel to be counterfeit, it shall be scrapped.
- d. Make Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel unusable (i.e., permanently mutilate to destruction), including its internal elements, if that Materiel is dispositioned for scrap.

NOTE: Before scrapping, physical parts may be required to support legal action.

- e. Verify customer-returned Materiel is Authentic before the Organization uses the Materiel, provides the Materiel to a customer, or places the Materiel in inventory.

Guidelines for control of Materiel are provided in Appendix F.

3.1.6 Reporting

The documented processes shall require that all occurrences of Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel are reported, as appropriate, to internal organizations, customers, government reporting organizations, industry supported reporting programs, and criminal investigative authorities per contract/legal requirements. See guidance in Appendix G.

3.1.7 Records

The Organization shall record and define retention periods for the following:

- a. Documentation of risk assessment and mitigation required by 3.1.2.
- b. Documentation identifying and reporting Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel, when Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel is identified by the Organization.

3.1.8 Training

The Organization shall train employees in the awareness, avoidance, detection, mitigation, disposition, and reporting of Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel relevant to their role and/or function with refresher training provided on a defined frequency.

NOTE: Relevant personnel may include, but are not limited to, those involved with Materiel control, customer interface, management, program and project management, procurement, quality assurance, inspection/testing, shipping/receiving, manufacturing, and engineering activities.

3.1.9 Self-Assessment

The Organization shall assess its compliance with this standard and the Organization's material authenticity plan. Appendix H may be used by the Organization as a guide for assessing compliance to this standard.

4. NOTES

4.1 Revision Indicator

A change bar (I) located in the left margin is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions, not editorial changes, have been made to the previous issue of this document. An (R) symbol to the left of the document title indicates a complete revision of the document, including technical revisions. Change bars and (R) are not used in original publications, nor in documents that contain editorial changes only.

PREPARED BY SAE G-21 COUNTERFEIT MATERIEL COMMITTEE

APPENDIX A - AUTHENTIC AND CONFORMING MATERIEL AVAILABILITY

This appendix is for information only to provide guidance about counterfeit risk assessment.

A.1 OBSOLESCENCE MANAGEMENT

- A.1.1 Obsolescence can increase the risk of acquiring Counterfeit Materiel. To maintain the likelihood of purchasing Authentic and conforming Materiel, Manufacturers should proactively manage the life cycle of their Materiel using a Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (DMSMS) management plan.

The following Government and Industry document(s) provide guidance for managing DMSMS:

- a. SD-22, Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (DMSMS) Guidebook
- b. SD-25, Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) Operating Policies and Procedures
- c. SD-19, Parts Management Guide
- d. MIL-STD-11991, General Standard for Parts, Materials, and Processes
- e. GIDEP DMS Reports
- f. STD-0016, Standard for Preparing a DMSMS Management Plan
- g. IEC 62402, Obsolescence Management - Application Guide

A.1.2 Long-Term Materiel Availability

During design, proposal, and program planning efforts, Organizations should assess the long-term availability of Authentic and conforming Materiel for production and support of systems. When assessments indicate availability risks, Organizations should take the steps necessary to assure the continuing availability of Authentic and conforming Materiel, including, for example:

- a. Lifetime buys
- b. System redesign
- c. Alternate/multiple sources
- d. Substitutions
- e. Planning for adequate procurement lead times

A.2 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Organization's technical representatives should assess risk considering the following:

- a. The likelihood of receiving this type of Materiel as a Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel from the intended source.
- b. The potential consequences of using a Suspect Counterfeit/Counterfeit Materiel in the Materiel application as known by the Organization, such as safety, Materiel performance, cost impact, maintainability, reliability, life expectancy, serviceability, equipment loss, data loss, cybersecurity, customer perspective, loss of the Organization's reputation.

A.3 RISK MITIGATION

The Organization should:

- a. Select inspections and/or tests commensurate with the level of risk associated with the source of supply and Materiel application.

NOTE: If the application is not known by the Organization, the Organization should engage its customer(s).

- b. Document inspections and/or tests to mitigate counterfeit risk, including acceptance and rejection criteria.

As guidance, Figures A1 and A2 provide typical sequences of risk levels related to the source of supply and materiel/application criticality, respectively. Examples of factors for assessing and mitigating supplier risk are contained in Table A1. Due diligence related to critical applications (including additional inspection/test) and customer requirements should be performed when establishing procurement requirements. See guidance in Appendix B.

A.3.1 Mitigating Supplier Risk

Once the impact of supply chain risk has been associated with the likelihood of counterfeiting occurrence in the supply chain, procurement assurance processes for avoiding Counterfeit Materiel should begin prior to the tendering of a contract for the item(s) at risk. The extent of these processes should be commensurate with risks related to the source of supply and item criticality. Figures A1 and A2 depict overall risk as a function of supplier reliability and item criticality, respectively. Table A1 identifies factors for assessing and mitigating supplier risk.