



AEROSPACE STANDARD	AS7003™	REV. E
	Issued 1990-07 Revised 2008-01 Cancelled 2017-06	
	Superseded by PRI PD1100	
Nadcap Program Requirements		

RATIONALE

AS7003E is being cancelled and superseded by PRI PD1100.

CANCELLATION NOTICE

This document has been declared "CANCELLED" as of June 2017 and has been superseded by PRI PD1100. By this action, this document will remain listed in the Numerical Section of the Aerospace Standards Index noting that it is superseded by PRI PD1100. Cancelled specifications are available from SAE.

SAE Technical Standards Board Rules provide that: "This report is published by SAE to advance the state of technical and engineering sciences. The use of this report is entirely voluntary, and its applicability and suitability for any particular use, including any patent infringement arising therefrom, is the sole responsibility of the user."

SAE reviews each technical report at least every five years at which time it may be revised, reaffirmed, stabilized, or cancelled. SAE invites your written comments and suggestions.

Copyright © 2017 SAE International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of SAE.

TO PLACE A DOCUMENT ORDER: Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada)
Tel: +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA)
Fax: 724-776-0790
Email: CustomerService@sae.org
<http://www.sae.org>

SAE WEB ADDRESS:

Full document details: [SAE AS7003E](#)

SAE values your input. To provide feedback on this Technical Report, please visit <http://standards.sae.org/AS7003E>

Documents
Document Sharing Hub

FOREWORD

Evolving from an original concept developed in a Government/Industry “Equal Partner” conference, the following key elements were highlighted for a successful program: (1) a certification or accreditation/certification system that includes informational feedback; (2) a verification system that incorporates audit reviews; (3) sponsorship by widely recognized private sector organizations with government participation; and (4) a time frame that provides for harmonious transition from the various programs and systems in use at that time.

In September 1987, the first meeting of an ad hoc committee was held to define the framework to develop a qualification/accreditation/certification program that would truly meet industry needs. This committee is now recognized as Nadcap.

Over more than a decade, Nadcap has grown to serve the needs of the Aerospace Industry, growing in the scope of manufacturing and special processes subject to accreditation/certification as well as the geographical span which is served by this program. The Nadcap program has been shaped to serve the International Aerospace Industry in three sectors: Americas, Europe, and Asia.

The current Nadcap mission is to provide international, unbiased, independent manufacturing process and product assessments and certification services for the purpose of adding value, reducing total cost, and facilitating relationships between primes and suppliers.

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This Aerospace Standard (AS) documents the requirements for implementing Nadcap industry consensus-based accreditation/certification programs.
- 1.2 Under these programs a supplier accredited product, process, or service is authorized by Nadcap to use the program's mark (a mark of conformity) and a certification to indicate that the accredited product, process, or service is in compliance with applicable standards, audit criteria, and/or specifications.
- 1.3 The procedures in this document are based on ISO/IEC Guides for third-party certification, registration, and accreditation/certification programs where these guides do not violate country laws. The adoption of these guides allows International harmonization of requirements for certification, registration, and accreditation.
- 1.4 Covered within this document and referenced documents are the operations of the Nadcap Management Council with its committees and task groups, Nadcap staff and field personnel, procedures for conducting audits, awarding accreditation, and continuing surveillance of suppliers. Supported recognized consensus standards and/or audit criteria define requirements for supplier compliance to Nadcap requirements for each individual product, process, or service to be accredited.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this standard to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of all publications shall apply.

2.1.1 PRI Publications

Available from the Performance Review Institute, 161 Thorn Hill Road, Warrendale, PA 15086-7527, Tel: 724-772-1616, www.pri-network.org.

Nadcap Operating Procedures

2.1.2 ISO/IEC Guide 2, "Standardization and related activities - General Vocabulary"

2.1.3 ISO/IEC Guide 27, "Guidelines for corrective action to be taken by a certification body in the event of misuse of its mark of conformity"

2.2 Definitions

The definitions used in accreditation/certification program are those from ISO/IEC Guide 2, "General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities."

2.2.1 For use within Nadcap, the following additions or exceptions shall apply:

- 2.2.1.1 **ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION:** Formal recognition that a producer is competent to furnish a specified product, process, or service.
- 2.2.1.2 **AUDIT CRITERIA:** An established set of questions or conditions which are used to assess an organization for accreditation/certification to a set of requirements.
- 2.2.1.3 **DELEGATION:** The granting of authority for decisions or actions to another person, body, party or organization. The original party holding authority retains responsibility for the decision or action.
- 2.2.1.4 **FAILURE:** Demonstrated and continuing nonconformance to established standards for accreditation/certification unmitigated by demonstration of corrective action.

- 2.2.1.5 OVERSIGHT: Established criteria for monitoring delegation to assure compliance with objectives.
- 2.2.1.6 PRODUCER: The manufacturer, distributor, supplier, or other organization providing the product, process, or service that is responsible for assuring conformity with all requirements of the referenced standards or specifications or audit criteria and is authorized to use the mark or certificate of conformity.
- 2.2.1.7 SPECIFICATION: A concise statement of requirements to be satisfied by a product, process, or service indicating, whenever appropriate, the procedure by which it may be determined whether the requirements given are satisfied. Insofar as is practicable, the requirements of a specification are to be expressed in exact numerical terms describing applicable limits.
- 2.2.1.8 STANDARD: A prescribed set of conditions and requirements, established by authority or agreement, for continuous application. A standard takes the form of a document containing a set of conditions to be fulfilled, or an object of comparison.
- 2.2.1.9 WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION: Accreditation/certification is withdrawn prior to the specified expiration date.
- 2.2.1.10 WITHHOLDING OF ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION: Following review of the audit report package, accreditation/certification is not granted for failure to satisfactorily conform to all Nadcap requirements.
- 2.2.1.11 SURVEILLANCE: Close observation of a person, group or process by periodic or continual monitoring which may include the collection, collation, analysis, and dissemination of data.
- 2.2.2 Additional relevant definitions from ISO/IEC Guide 2 are applicable, the most relevant being essentially quoted below.
- 2.2.2.1 CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY: Document issued under the rules of a certification system, indicating that adequate confidence is provided that a duly identified product, process, or service is in conformity with a specific standard or audit criteria or other normative document.
- 2.2.2.2 CERTIFICATION OF CONFORMITY: Action by a third party, demonstrating that adequate confidence is provided that a duly identified product, process, or service is in conformity with a specific standard or audit criteria or other normative document.
- 2.2.2.3 CERTIFICATION SYSTEM: System that has its own rules of procedure and management for carrying out certification of conformity.
- NOTE: (1) Certification systems may be operated at, for example, national, regional, or international level.
- (2) The central body that conducts and administers a certification system may decentralize its activities and rights to certify conformity.
- 2.2.2.4 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: Certification system as related to specified products, processes, or services to which the same particular standards and rules, and the same procedure, apply.
- NOTE: The term "certification scheme" is used in some countries to cover the same concept as "certification program".
- 2.2.2.5 CERTIFICATION BODY: Body that conducts certification of conformity.
- NOTE: A certification body may operate its own testing and inspection activities or oversee these activities carried out on its behalf by other bodies.
- 2.2.2.6 CONFORMITY: Fulfillment by a product, process, or service of all requirements specified.

- 2.2.2.7 INDUSTRY CONSENSUS ACCREDITATION: Another party audit to consensus standards reviewed and approved by the second party (i.e., Nadcap).
- 2.2.2.8 INSPECTION BODY (FOR CERTIFICATION): Body that performs inspection services on behalf of a certification body.
- 2.2.2.9 INTERLABORATORY TEST COMPARISONS: Organization, performance, and evaluation of tests on the same or similar items or materials by two or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions.
- 2.2.2.10 MARK OF CONFORMITY (FOR CERTIFICATION): Protected mark, applied or issued under the rules of a certification system, indicating that adequate confidence is provided that the relevant product, process, or service is in conformity with a specific standard or other normative document. Nadcap is a registered trademark.
- 2.2.2.11 (LABORATORY) PROFICIENCY TESTING: Determination of laboratory testing performance by means of inter-laboratory test comparisons.
- 2.2.2.12 TEST: Technical operation that consists of the determination of one or more characteristics of a given product, process, or service according to a specified procedure.
- 2.2.2.13 TEST METHOD: Specified technical procedure for performing a test.
- 2.2.2.14 TEST REPORT: Document that presents test results and other information relevant to a test.
- 2.2.2.15 TESTING LABORATORY: Laboratory that performs tests.

NOTE: The term "testing laboratory" can be used in the sense of a legal entity, a technical entity or both.

- 2.2.2.16 THIRD PARTY: Person or body that is recognized as being independent of the parties involved, without direct industry management oversight as concerns the issue in question (i.e., ISO9001 Registrar).

NOTE: Parties involved are usually supplier ("first party") and purchaser ("second party") interests.

3. NADCAP GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 Nadcap provides a basic uniform method for assessing and accrediting/certifying the capability of suppliers to meet specific program requirements.
- 3.2 Nadcap identifies suppliers who have demonstrated a capability of providing an identified process, product, or service of specified quality.
 - 3.2.1 Nadcap initially determines supplier capability through audits and information provided by suppliers. Continuing supplier capability is determined through efforts including continuing surveillance, periodic follow-up audits, proficiency evaluations, and evaluation of information received from suppliers, inputs from users concerning supplier's continuing performance, and supplier's information on generic and specific problems from data bases.
 - 3.2.2 Nadcap maintains continuing awareness of supplier capability and proficiency. For some Nadcap commodities there is continuing surveillance through ongoing inspections or reviews of inspection and tests on supplier processes to assure compliance with the specified requirements.
- 3.3 Suppliers apply for accreditation/certification by completing an application with the necessary information and fees. Audit personnel are assigned and the audit is conducted using Nadcap approved audit criteria. The duration of the audit is a function of specific program requirements. The auditor's observations and recommendation are reviewed in accordance with Nadcap Operating Procedures. Upon demonstration of compliance with requirements, accreditation/certification is granted.

- 3.4 Nadcap accredited suppliers are included on the Nadcap Qualified Manufacturers List (QML) along with their qualified products, or processes, or services.
- 3.4.1 The QML shall be available to subscribing users of the products, processes, and services through an international on-line network. This data management system provides complete information on pending and accredited suppliers with addresses, points of contact, commodities qualified to specification, and any limitations in available services; a list of suppliers by commodity by geographical area; scheduling of audits cross-referenced between auditor and supplier; advisories and electronic mail.
- 3.4.2 Information on accreditation/certification status of suppliers shall be maintained current by Nadcap staff. Suppliers shall provide and maintain current information requested on ownership, organization, management, and key staff, location, equipment, procedures, etc.
- 3.4.3 Nadcap accreditation/certification applies only to suppliers of products, processes, and services and not to certification of individual personnel or product. A product, process, or service provided by an accredited supplier may require certain qualification requirements. Such qualification may be witnessed by the Nadcap audit/inspection personnel.
- 3.5 Suppliers that do not agree with the results of the accreditation process may challenge the decision by means of the Nadcap appeals procedure.
- 3.6 The Nadcap accreditation/certification process of supplier processes is administered with confidentiality as directed by the Nadcap Management Council.
- 3.7 Detailed requirements, audit criteria, and surveillance criteria are prepared by the appropriate task group(s) operating under the Nadcap Management Council.

4. ORGANIZATION OF NADCAP

4.1 Nadcap Management Council (NMC)

The organization of Nadcap is illustrated in Figure 1.

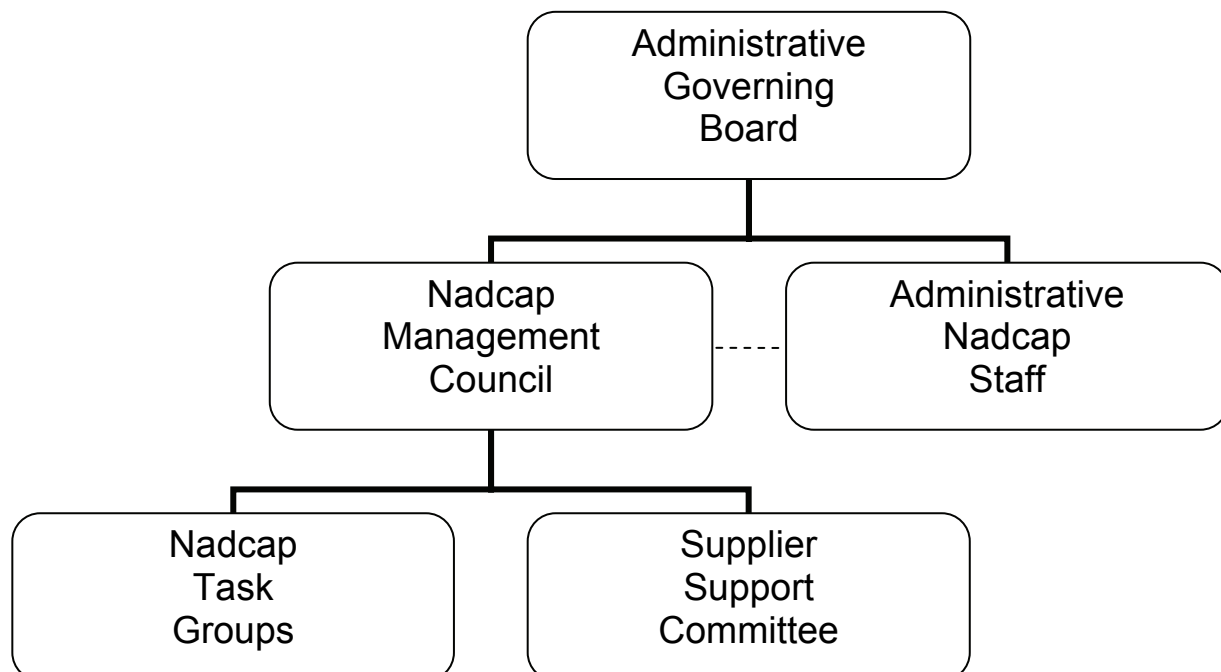


FIGURE 1 - NADCAP ORGANIZATION