

contracts when first identified for competitive acquisition; and

(ii) Assisting in determining the cause of problems noted in user experience reports.

(b) The contracting office must coordinate with the quality assurance activity before changing any quality requirement.

(c) The activity responsible for technical requirements may prepare instructions covering the type and extent of Government inspections for acquisitions that are complex, have critical applications, or have unusual requirements.

(i) In preparing the instructions, the technical activity shall consider, as applicable—

(A) The past quality history of the contractor;

(B) The criticality of the material procured in relation to its intended use, considering such factors as—

- (1) Reliability;
- (2) Safety;
- (3) Interchangeability; and
- (4) Maintainability;

(C) Problems encountered in the development of the material;

(D) Problems encountered in other procurements of the same or similar material;

(E) Available feed-back data from contract administration, receiving, testing, or using activities; and

(F) The experience of other contractors in overcoming manufacturing problems.

(ii) The instructions shall—

(A) Be kept to a minimum;

(B) Comply with 246.470-2; and

(C) Be prepared on a contract-by-contract basis.

(iii) The instructions shall not—

(A) Serve as a substitute for incomplete contract quality requirements;

(B) Impose greater inspection requirements than are in the contract;

(C) Use broad or general designations such as—

- (1) All requirements;
- (2) All characteristics; or
- (3) All characteristics in the classification of defects;

(D) Be used for routine administrative procedures; or

(E) Specify continued inspection requirements when statistically sound

sampling will provide an adequate degree of protection.

(iv) After issuing the instructions, the technical activity—

(A) Must provide the contract administration office available information regarding those factors which resulted in the requirement for Government inspection;

(B) Must periodically analyze the need to continue, change, or discontinue the instructions; and

(C) Must advise the contract administration office of the results of the periodic analyses.

246.104 Contract administration office responsibilities.

(f) The contract administration office shall continue to follow any specific written instructions received from the contracting office until the contracting office acts on a recommendation.

Subpart 246.2—Contract Quality Requirements

246.202 Types of contract quality requirements.

246.202-4 Higher-level contract quality requirements.

(1) Higher-level contract quality requirements are used in addition to a standard inspection requirement.

(2) Higher-level contract quality requirements, including nongovernment quality system standards adopted to meet DoD needs, are listed in the DoD Index of Specifications and Standards.

[60 FR 33145, June 27, 1995. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 61599, Nov. 30, 1995]

246.203 Criteria for use of contract quality requirements.

(c) *Criticality.* Acquisitions of critical items, whether peculiar or common, shall have contract quality requirements.

Subpart 246.3—Contract Clauses

246.370 Material inspection and receiving report.

(a) Use the clause at 252.246-7000, Material Inspection and Receiving Report, in solicitations and contracts when there will be separate and distinct