



Standard Practice for Quality Management Systems for Nondestructive Testing Agencies¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1212; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers general requirements for the establishment and maintenance of a quality management system for agencies engaged in nondestructive testing (NDT).

1.2 This practice utilizes criteria contained in Practice E 543.

1.3 This practice utilizes criteria contained in American National Standard ANSI/ISO/ASQ Q9001–2000, Quality management systems—Requirements.

1.4 This practice recognizes the importance of establishing minimum safety criteria.

1.5 *This practice does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this practice to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E 543 Practice for Agencies Performing Nondestructive Testing

E 1359 Guide for Evaluating Capabilities of Nondestructive Testing Agencies

2.2 ASNT/ANSI Standards:³

ASNT SNT-TC-1A Recommended Practice for Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing
ANSI/ASNT CP 189 Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel

2.3 ANSI/ASQ Standards:

A8402 Management and Quality Assurance-Vocabulary⁴

Q9000 Series of Quality Management and Quality Assurance (Q9000 through Q9004 inclusive) Standards (These are exact equivalents to the ISO 9000 through ISO 9004 series)

2.4 AIA Standard:

NAS 410 NAS Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Practice:

3.1.1 *agency, n*—the public, independent, or in-house nondestructive testing organization selected by the authority to perform the examination(s) required by the purchase order or specification.

3.1.2 *authority, n*—the owner, prime contractor, engineer, architect, or purchasing agent in responsible charge of the work, or duly recognized or designated representative.

3.1.3 *continual quality improvement, n*—an ongoing quality improvement activity for achieving results. Improvement may be directed at individual processes, finished products, or administrative processes. The continual quality improvement program utilizes statistical methods, team projects, and other tools as appropriate to obtain and sustain improvements.

3.1.4 *customer, n*—customer is used with the same meaning as “authority.”

3.1.5 *process capability, n*—the degree to which a process can produce the same results without variation, that is, reproducibility.

3.1.6 *process control, n*—managing a process to ensure that it is performing to its designed capability.

3.1.7 *quality management system, n*—the organizational structure, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes, and resources for implementing and maintaining the quality program.

3.1.8 *quality manual, n*—a comprehensive document stating the quality policy and specifying organizational structure, practices, and procedures necessary to empower the quality policy and quality management system.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E07 on Nondestructive Testing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E07.09 on Nondestructive Testing Agencies.

Current edition approved March 1, 2004. Published April 2004. Originally approved in 1987. Last previous edition approved in 1999 as E 1212 - 99.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from The American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT), P.O. Box 28518, 1711 Arlingate Ln., Columbus, OH 43228-0518.

⁴ Available from American Society for Quality (ASQ), 600 N. Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203.

⁵ Available from Aerospace Industries Association of America, 1250 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005.