

Standard Guide for Preferred Methods for Acceptance of Product¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes lot or batch and continuous sampling plans using MIL-STD-1916 as a basis. It represents an alternative sampling approach to attributes sampling (MIL-STD-105E, same as E2234), variables sampling (MIL-STD-414, E2762), and continuous sampling (MIL-STD-1235B, E2819).

1.2 This guide provides the sampling plans of MIL-STD-1916 in ASTM format for use by ASTM committees and others. It recognizes the continuing usage of MIL-STD-1916 in industries supported by ASTM. Most of the original text in MIL-STD-1916 is preserved in Sections 4–6 of this guide. The original wording of “Government” in MIL-STD-1916 has been changed to “consumer”, and “contractor” has been changed to “producer” to make this standard more generic.

1.3 *Purpose*—To encourage producers supplying goods and services to its consumers to submit efficient and effective process control (prevention) procedures in place of prescribed sampling requirements. The goal is to support the movement away from an AQL-based inspection (detection) strategy to implementation of an effective prevention-based strategy including a comprehensive quality system, continuous improvement and a partnership with the consumer. The underlying theme is a partnership between consumer and the producer, with the requisite competence of both parties, and a clear mutual benefit from processes capable of consistently high quality products and services. The objective is to create an atmosphere where every noncompliance is an opportunity for corrective action and improvement rather than one where acceptable quality levels are the contractually sufficient goals.

1.4 *This standard 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 standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E11 on Quality and Statistics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E11.30 on Statistical Quality Control.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

- E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics
- E2234 Practice for Sampling a Stream of Product by Attributes Indexed by AQL
- E2762 Practice for Sampling a Stream of Product by Variables Indexed by AQL
- E2819 Practice for Single- and Multi-Level Continuous Sampling of a Stream of Product by Attributes Indexed by AQL

2.2 *Other Standards*:³

- MIL-STD-105E Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes
- MIL-STD-1235B Single- and Multi-Level Continuous Sampling for Attributes
- MIL-STD-1916 DoD Preferred Methods for Acceptance of Product
- MIL-STD-414 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Variables for Percent Defective

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The terminology defined in Terminology E456 applies to this guide except as modified below.

3.1.1 *critical defect, n*—a defect that judgment and experience indicate would result in hazardous or unsafe conditions for individuals using, maintaining, or depending upon the product, or a defect that judgment and experience indicate is likely to prevent performance of the function of a major end item. E2234

3.1.2 *inspection, n*—the process of measuring, examining, testing, or otherwise comparing the unit of product with the requirements. E2234

3.1.3 *major defect, n*—a defect, other than critical, that is likely to result in failure, or to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose. E2234

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 Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil>.