



PROCEDURE			
Document Owner Quality Manager	Release Date 06/30/2026	Procedure Number QA-PR-026	Revision D
Title  <b>QUALITY ASSURANCE CLAUSES</b>			

## REVISION RECORD

REVISION	RELEASE DATE	NATURE OF CHANGES
A	05/22/2023	N/A INITIAL RELEASE
B	06/13/2023	ADD COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND DFAR REQ'T TO Q3. RENUMBERED PER QA-PR-010.
C	12/21/2023	UPDATED HEADER. UPDATED Q1 TO REFERENCE A QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. UPDATED Q8 TO APPLY TO ANY LEVEL OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN. ADDED LANGUAGE TO Q15 TO SPECIFY PROCESS CHANGE/LOCATION NOTICES.
D	06/30/2026	REVISED QUALITY CLAUSES TO ALIGN WITH ERP WORDING. MOVED QUALITY CLAUSES APPLICABLE TO ALL ORDERS TO SECTION 2. GROUPED STANDARD FLOWDOWNS BY OUTSIDE PROCESS.

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**SUMMARY**

This document identifies Quality requirements that are levied on suppliers, distributors, and/or sub-tier contractors, who provide goods or services to Castheon. General Requirements and relevant Quality clauses are in addition to other requirements specified on the Purchase Order (PO).

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

The requirements below are applicable to all POs:

- **ABILITY TO COMPLY:** If a Supplier cannot comply with any applicable Quality requirement listed within a Quality Clause of a PO, resolution and/or changes to the requirements must be obtained via written approval (e.g. email or PO update) prior to acceptance of the Castheon PO. Modifications to the Suppliers PO/Contract must be communicated in writing by the Castheon Buyer.
- **QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:** The seller shall implement and maintain an industry recognized Quality Management System. Castheon reserves the right to review the Supplier's Quality Management System.
- **NON-CONFORMING HARDWARE MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING:** Nonconforming items shall not be shipped unless authorized in writing by the Castheon Quality representative. A nonconformance that cannot be returned to conformance may be submitted to Castheon for consideration, but acceptance is not guaranteed. Authority for a disposition of "Repair" and/or "Use-As-Is" dispositions shall come from Castheon Quality engineering. Use of the Castheon NCR form for reporting nonconformances is preferred - the form can be obtained by contacting your Castheon Buyer or Quality representative.
- **FOREIGN OBJECT DEBRIS/DAMAGE (FOD):** Supplier shall take steps to mitigate contamination by foreign objects/debris throughout the manufacture, assembly, test, and shipping processes. The Supplier will document, investigate, determine root cause, and eliminate repetitive nonconformances related to Foreign Object Debris (FOD) incidents. In addition, packaging materials that generate particles, fibers, or other debris are not acceptable. Specification NAS 412 is recommended to be used as a guide for FOD programs.
- **DISTRIBUTOR AND MANUFACTURER COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Distributors and the original Manufacturer are responsible for compliance with all PO requirements. The applicable requirements of all Quality clauses, and any technical requirements listed on the PO, will apply to both the Distributor and the Manufacturer of the product. All reasonable measures shall be taken by the Distributor and Manufacturer to validate all items sold to Castheon are from an authorized source and certify that all materials provided are not counterfeit articles. If any Distributor items or materials are discovered to be counterfeited, from any source, Castheon shall be immediately notified in writing.

- **LANGUAGE:** All data, documents, and any certificates of conformance from the Supplier and sub-tiers shall be in English, or contain an English translation, and must be signed by a company Quality representative.
- **RECORD RETENTION:** All assembly/production/programming documents, material certifications (including inserts/hardware), supplier generated Quality documents (C of C, FAI reports, inspection records, and discrepancy reports), Castheon models, POs and any customer related flow down documents shall be archived for 10 years and available upon request unless otherwise requested via PO after which the Supplier agrees to either return or destroy related records.
- **BUSINESS CODE OF ETHICS:** Supplier must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, employee competent personnel to ensure Buyer's requirements are met, and be committed to the highest standards of ethics and business conduct. Suppliers must not engage in unfair business practices (i.e. business gifts, etc.) and should avoid involvement in activities that could be perceived as a conflict of interest. Supplier to enforce all product safety requirements, including the management of critical items and key characteristics.
- **COUNTERFEIT PARTS CONTROL:** Supplier shall establish and maintain controls which seek to prevent the purchase and delivery of Suspect and Counterfeit Parts to Castheon. Suppliers shall only purchase products delivered to Castheon directly from the Original Component Manufacturer (OCM)/Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or through an OCM/OEM authorized distributor chain. Parts shall not be acquired by the supplier and furnished to Castheon from independent distributors or brokers unless approved in advance and in writing by Castheon. Supplier shall immediately notify Castheon with the pertinent facts if the Supplier becomes aware that it has furnished Suspect or Counterfeit parts. After such notification, when requested by Castheon, Supplier shall provide copies of OCM/OEM documentation in its possession that authenticates traceability (up to and including other testing validation methods) of the affected items to the applicable OCM/OEM.
- **ON-SITE TASK WITNESSING:** Castheon reserves the right to assign representatives for any purpose including verifying all tests and/or inspections performed as a part of the terms and conditions of this PO(s). Suppliers shall provide Castheon representatives with access to all areas essential to complete this task throughout all periods of performance under this PO(s).
- **ON-SITE AUDIT ACCESS:** The Supplier shall permit access to applicable areas of its facility and to applicable documented information to the Buyer, its Buyer's customers, and regulatory authorities. This requirement shall be flowed down and applies to any level of the supply chain.
- **SUB-TIER REQUIREMENTS FLOW DOWN:** Supplier must ensure that the clauses associated with this PO are flowed down to all its sub-tier suppliers. Supplier is required to direct all its external providers to ensure that the requirements of the final product are met.

- **HARDWARE TRACEABILITY:** The Supplier must maintain hardware traceability. The Supplier may use the original Lot/Date Code/Serial number or their own method for identifying the end item product as required for proper traceability. Serialized shipments must have the serial numbers listed on the shipper and on the corresponding intermediate packaging. Identification shall manage the pedigree of deliverables, including raw material, fabrication and assembly steps, inspection results, and test documentation.
- **CHANGE MANAGEMENT:** Items furnished under this PO shall be identical in configuration, form, fit, function, and performance to the product previously approved by Castheon. Supplier shall ensure that only Castheon authorized changes are incorporated into engineering documents, process planning, and hardware. Prior to applying changes, the Supplier shall notify the Buyer of changes to processes, products, or services, including changes of their external providers or location of manufacture, and obtain Buyer’s approval.
- **EMPLOYEE AWARENESS:** Supplier shall communicate any concerns regarding product safety to Castheon. Suppliers will ensure that employees and people working on their behalf are aware of: (1) their contribution to product or service conformity, (2) their contribution to product safety, and (3) the importance of ethical behavior.

**QUALITY CLAUSES (Q-Clauses)**

The following Q-Clauses apply for the given good or service provided by the table below, unless otherwise exempted on the PO. If providing multiple types of goods and services under a single PO, all relevant Quality Clauses for the given good or service apply, and documentation may be included in the same data package.

VENDOR GOODS/SERVICES	APPLICABLE QUALITY CLAUSES
OUTSOURCED PRINTING	Q2, Q4, Q5, Q10, Q11, Q16, Q19, Q20
POWDER RAW MATERIAL	Q2, Q3, Q5, Q16, Q19, Q20
HEAT TREAT	Q2, Q4, Q14, Q16, Q19
COATING	Q2, Q5, Q10, Q16, Q19
MACHINING	Q2, Q10, Q11, Q16, Q20
WELDING	Q2, Q16, Q19
MATERIAL TESTING	Q2, Q5, Q16, Q19

Q-Clause	Description	Description
Q1	N/A	DELETED. QMS REQUIREMENTS MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q2	Certificate of Conformance (CoC)	<p>The Supplier shall provide with each shipment a legible CoC which states that the items were produced, processed, and/or tested in accordance with stated applicable PO or subcontract requirements. CoCs shall be signed by the cognizant Quality representative. The following information is required in the CoC at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PO Number</li> <li>2. Castheon part number, revision, and quantity</li> <li>3. Serial numbers or Lot numbers of Serialized or Lot Serialized parts, respectively.</li> </ol>
Q3	Virgin Feedstock Procurement	<p>Powder producers and distributors shall operate under SAE AS9100 or SAE AS9120 Quality Management Systems, or equivalent approved by the Castheon. A certificate of compliance shall be provided for all levied requirements along with identifiers for each powder heat and blended lot and the date(s) and location(s) of powder production. The certification package should include the following, at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- *Country of origin</li> <li>- Specifying unambiguously the method of powder manufacture.</li> <li>- Specifying powder chemistry requirements, including acceptable methods of measurement and tolerance.</li> <li>- Specifying particle size distribution (PSD) requirements and the acceptable methods for powder sampling and determining the PSD, including explicit limits in weight percent on the quantity of coarse and fine particles outside the PSD range.</li> <li>- Specifying, at least qualitatively, the mean particle shape (powder morphology) and limits on satellite/agglomerated particles using standardized terminology/methodology.</li> <li>- Statement that post-production additions to the powder lot for control of PSD or chemistry (doping) was not performed.</li> <li>- Providing requirements for powder cleanliness and contamination control, including moisture content for sensitive materials.</li> <li>- Providing requirements for powder packaging, labeling, and environmental controls.</li> <li>- Specifying rheological (flow and spreading) behavior of the powder and associated method of verification.</li> <li>- Specifying powder crystallinity morphology control, such as solvent processing procedures and heat treatments, if applicable.</li> </ul> <p>*Per DFARS 252.225-7052: the Contractor shall not deliver under this contract any Tungsten metal powder produced in any covered country, or any end item, manufactured in any covered country, that contains Tungsten metal powder. Covered countries are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea</li> <li>2) The People’s Republic of China</li> <li>3) The Russian Federation</li> <li>4) The Islamic Republic of Iran</li> </ol>

Q4	Furnace Records	Supplier shall furnish applicable furnace records.
Q5	Test Reports	Supplier shall furnish a legible copy of applicable test reports of the process(es) performed and include the results for each unit examined indicating either accepted or rejected. When parts are serialized, serial numbers must appear on the report(s). In a case where serial numbers are not required, traceability information must be provided (I.e. Lot number). Results must be identifiable with test parameters, specifications, and material(s) to product(s) delivered. Reports must bear the date and signature of a responsible representative of the agency performing the test(s). The specifications must be listed, including the revision letter(s) or revision number(s).
Q6	N/A	DELETED. NONCONFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q7	N/A	DELETED. ON-SITE TASK WITNESSING MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q8	N/A	DELETED. ON-SITE AUDIT ACCESS MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q9	Source Inspection	Source Inspection may be conducted by the Buyer at the Supplier’s facilities or where designated in this Order prior to shipment. Inspection/test and/or in-process inspection/test of the articles specified in this Order must be performed by the Supplier and may be witnessed by the Buyer’s Quality Representative. Prior to fabrication start, the Supplier and the Buyer must determine the process steps at which Source Inspection must be conducted. The Supplier must notify the Buyer of the scheduled inspection/test five (5) days in advance. The method of product release must be a stamp or signature by the Buyer’s Quality Representative on the Supplier’s shipping or inspection documents.
Q10	100% Inspection	100% inspection of characteristics for 100% of units listed on the PO, according to the provided engineering drawing (or alternative documentation), is required. The inspection report is to be delivered along with the physical hardware (electronic transmission is allowable).
Q11	First Article Inspection	A First Article Inspection (FAI) shall be performed, and a First Article Inspection Report (FAIR) shall be furnished by Seller in accordance with the requirements of AS9102. The relevant bubble drawing shall be included for reference.  <i>Note: This is specific to documentation required per AS9102 and does not exempt the supplier from performing 100% inspection of all units on the PO when Q10 is invoked.</i>
Q12	Sampling Inspection	Supplier is authorized to perform inspection per a Castheon-approved sampling plan. If rejected characteristics are found when sampling, the Supplier must reinspect the discrepant characteristic(s) on 100% of the lot.
Q13	N/A	DELETED. SERIALIZATION MOVED TO SECTION 2 WITH TRACEABILITY.
Q14	N/A	DELETED. TRACEABILITY MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q15	N/A	DELETED. CHANGE MANAGEMENT MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q16	Calibration	The Supplier shall maintain a calibration system that complies with one of the following specifications (or an equivalent): ANSI Z540.1 or ISO/IEC 17025. This provision shall be applicable to all inspection, test and measuring equipment used by the supplier or supplied by Castheon for inspection or test. All test equipment and gages used must be traceable to NIST standards.
Q17	N/A	DELETED. SUB-TIER REQUIREMENTS FLOWDOWN MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q18	N/A	DELETED. FOD/FOE DETAILS MOVED TO SECTION 2.

Q19	Special Process Providers	This PO contains special processes. Special Processes shall be performed by Castheon-approved processors or NADCAP approved processors. The Supplier must submit a certification listing the specification designation/number and that the special process was performed to.
Q20	Design Records	When design and development activities are applicable to the product/services provided by Supplier, the Supplier agrees to maintain adequate design and development control including proper review, validation, and verification activities. Suppliers also agree to control design changes and maintain records as appropriate.
Q21	N/A	DELETED. SUSPECT COUNTERFEIT PARTS MOVED TO SECTION 2.
Q22	GIDEP Participation	The supplier shall participate in the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) in accordance with the GIDEP Operations Manual available from the GIDEP Operations Center, PO Box 8000, Corona, California 91718-8000. If a GIDEP affects the contract/program, the supplier shall notify the Buyer of such impact.