

July 1, 2002

Dear Boeing Supplier,

The Boeing Company is moving to implement common standards for quality systems, processes and approvals in concert with all members of the aerospace industry. As a supplier to Boeing, you have an opportunity to help your company take full advantage of this drive towards standardization by working together with Boeing on three key initiatives, including the Boeing quality management system, first article inspection, and digital product definition.

Boeing Quality Management System (BQMS)

Boeing began in 2000 to eliminate costly, redundant on-site quality system assessments by implementing the Boeing Quality Management System (BQMS), a single quality management system for suppliers based on ISO 9001 as supplemented by AS9100.

As part of the BQMS implementation, all current Boeing suppliers are encouraged to have an on-site quality system assessment performed and their quality system certified by an accredited Certification/Registration Body (CRB). Before inclusion in the Boeing supply base, new suppliers will now be required to obtain a CRB AS9100 certified quality system as a prerequisite to D6-82479 Appendix A approval.

Boeing offers several resources to help you implement the requirements of the new quality management system, including a list of ANSI-RAB AS9100 accredited CRBs. Please visit www.boeing.com/companyoffices/doingbiz/supplier/.

Updates to the *BQMS Requirements for Suppliers* are also posted on the web in the document D6-82479. Boeing revised this document in November 2001 to incorporate AS9100 Rev. A. Two additional aerospace industry standards were incorporated into the document revision, including the AS9003, Inspection and Test Quality System and AS9103, Variation Management of Key Characteristics.

Aerospace First Article Inspection

Boeing is adopting the AS9102, *Aerospace First Article Inspection Requirement*, as the standard for first article inspection of purchased hardware. Adoption of this standard improves the process for and consolidates multiple Boeing first article inspection requirements. The AS9102 standard was developed by a joint industry team sponsored by the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG), of which Boeing is a member. The AS9102 standard was first released in August 2000 by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), and is available through their website: <http://www.sae.org>



Boeing is one of the first IAQG member companies to step forward and implement the AS9102 standard. The transition to the new standard industry-wide will take time and effort, as in the case of the introduction of AS9100, but we believe other members will soon follow as implementation gains momentum. The payoff will come from having an industry-wide standard that improves the overall effectiveness of the first article inspection process, reduces non-conformances and makes it easier for producers to demonstrate compliance to the quality system requirement.

We encourage you to obtain a copy of the standard through SAE to help you identify required process changes and contractual requirements to perform first article inspection in accordance with AS9102. Please visit the Boeing web for more information on AS9102 implementation: www.boeing.com/companyoffices/doingbiz/supplier/.



Digital Product Definition

Boeing has reached consensus on a common process for controlling the transfer of digital product definition to suppliers. The Boeing document D6-51991, *Quality Assurance Standard For Digital Product Definition at Boeing Suppliers*, consolidates and replaces multiple Boeing requirements. The document outlines uniform specifications for supplier control of digital product definition data and software. All suppliers are encouraged to review this document as a guide to control and use Boeing digital product definition data at their site, as well as at the sites of their sub-tier suppliers.

Boeing will conduct a single on-site assessment of suppliers' digital product definition capabilities. The checklist used for the capability assessment and the D6-51991 standard are available on the Boeing web: www.boeing.com/companyoffices/doingbiz/supplier/.

Boeing will begin validating suppliers' digital product definition processes soon, with completion expected no later than October 2003. Boeing will discuss with you our expectations and a timetable for assessment and implementation before specific plans are formalized for your company.

Thank you for continuing this journey together with Boeing as we embrace the use of common industry standards and practices. We will continue to communicate our plans to transition to these standards as they are developed and released.

Please feel free to share your thoughts or to ask specific questions on any of these initiatives by sending an e-mail message to: pqit@pss.boeing.com. When making inquiries to the address, please indicate the Boeing site with which you primarily work and a Boeing representative will contact you to provide assistance.

Respectfully,

(Signature on file)

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