

ASME NQA-1-2019
(Revision of ASME NQA-1-2017)

Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD



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FOREWORD

This Standard is intended to serve the global nuclear industry responsible for the safety and quality of nuclear facilities and activities.

It is intended to be applied to any structure, system, component, activity, or organization that is essential to the safe, reliable, and efficient performance of a nuclear facility and any activities independent of a facility that may affect performance. It is also intended to be applied to all phases of a nuclear facility life cycle and to related activities.

This Standard reflects industry experience and current understanding of the quality assurance requirements necessary to achieve safe, reliable, and efficient utilization of nuclear energy and management and processing of radioactive materials. The Committee on Nuclear Quality Assurance (NQA) actively endorses the growing worldwide movement toward rational, cost-effective quality assurance practices — practices that focus on results. The NQA Committee also maintains liaison with national and international groups that have similar interests in quality to assure consistency and maximum applicability of the Standard in a global setting. Consequently, the NQA Committee has regularly updated and revised the Standard since its first edition was issued in 1979 to improve its utility, effect on nuclear safety, and value to the nuclear industry.

This Standard includes requirements and guidance and is organized in the following four parts:

- (a) **Part I** contains requirements for a Quality Assurance Program for nuclear facility applications.
- (b) **Part II** contains additional quality assurance requirements for the planning and conduct of specific work activities conducted under a Quality Assurance Program developed in accordance with **Part I**.
- (c) **Part III** contains guidance for implementing the requirements of **Parts I** and **II**.
- (d) **Part IV** contains guidance for the application of NQA-1 and comparisons of NQA-1 with other quality requirements.

Early in 1975, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) assigned overall responsibility for coordination among technical societies and development and maintenance of nuclear power quality assurance standards to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The ASME Committee on NQA was constituted on October 3, 1975, and assumed responsibility for the ANSI/ASME N45 series documents. Currently, the NQA Committee operates under the ASME requirements for Nuclear Codes and Standards Development Committees.

This Committee initially prepared

ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1979	Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants
ANSI/ASME NQA-2-1983	Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants
ANSI/ASME NQA-3-1989	Quality Assurance Requirements for High Level Waste Management

For a detailed history of the NQA Committee and evolution of the Standard, go to: <http://cstools.asme.org/csconnect/CommitteePages.cfm?Committee=010500000&Action=16897>.

Requests for interpretation or suggestions for improvement of this Standard should be submitted in accordance with Correspondence With the NQA Committee.

For a listing of the NQA publication history, refer to the following table:

Historical Listing of NQA Publications

NQA-1			NQA-2			NQA-3		
Editions and Addenda	Designator	Issued	Editions and Addenda	Designator	Issued	Editions and Addenda	Designator	Issued
1 st Ed.	NQA-1-1979	8/31/1979	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-1981	4/30/1981	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1b-1981	1/31/1982	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 nd Ed.	NQA-1-1983	7/1/1983	1 st Ed.	NQA-2-1983	8/31/1983	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-1983	12/31/1983	Add.	NQA-2a-1985	10/15/1985	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1b-1984	3/15/1985	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1c-1985	12/31/1985	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 rd Ed.	NQA-1-1986	7/1/1986	2 nd Ed.	NQA-2-1986	7/1/1986	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-1986	2/15/1987	Add.	NQA-2a-1986	2/15/1987	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1b-1987	3/15/1988	Add.	NQA-2b-1987	4/15/1988	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1c-1988	2/28/1989	Add.	NQA-2c-1988	2/28/1989	...	...	...
4 th Ed.	NQA-1-1989	9/15/1989	3 rd Ed.	NQA-2-1989	9/30/1989	1 st Ed.	NQA-3-1989	3/23/1990
Add.	NQA-1a-1989	3/31/1990	Add.	NQA-2a-1990	5/31/1990	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1b-1991	4/15/1991	Add.	NQA-2b-1991	5/12/1992	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1c-1992	9/30/1992	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 th Ed.	NQA-1-1994 [Note (1)]	7/29/1994	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-1995	1/19/1996	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 th Ed.	NQA-1-1997	12/31/1997	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-1999	5/25/1999	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 th Ed.	NQA-1-2000	5/21/2001	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-2002	12/6/2002	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 th Ed.	NQA-1-2004	12/22/2004	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-2005	5/3/2006	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1b-2007	6/1/2007	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 th Ed.	NQA-1-2008	3/14/2008	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1a-2009	7/20/2009	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add.	NQA-1b-2011	1/4/2011	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 th Ed.	NQA-1-2012	3/15/2013	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 th Ed.	NQA-1-2015	2/20/2015	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 th Ed.	NQA-1-2017	1/18/2018	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 th Ed.	NQA-1-2019	12/31/2019	...	...	...	...	...	...

GENERAL NOTE: NQA editions and addenda prior to 1989 were titled ANSI/ASME NQA.

NOTE: (1) This edition is a consolidation of NQA-1 and NQA-2.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NQA COMMITTEE

General. ASME Standards are developed and maintained with the intent to represent the consensus of concerned interests. As such, users of this Standard may interact with the Committee by requesting interpretations, proposing revisions, and attending Committee meetings. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Secretary, NQA Standards Committee
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Two Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016-5990
<http://go.asme.org/Inquiry>

Proposing Revisions. Revisions are made periodically to the Standard to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by the experience gained from the application of the Standard. Approved revisions will be published periodically.

The Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this Standard. Such proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the paragraph number(s), the proposed wording, and a detailed description of the reasons for the proposal, including any pertinent documentation.

Interpretations. Upon request, the NQA Standards Committee will render an interpretation of any requirement of the Standard. Interpretations can only be rendered in response to a written request sent to the Secretary of the NQA Standards Committee.

Requests for interpretation should preferably be submitted through the online Interpretation Submittal Form. The form is accessible at <http://go.asme.org/InterpretationRequest>. Upon submittal of the form, the Inquirer will receive an automatic e-mail confirming receipt.

If the Inquirer is unable to use the online form, he/she may mail the request to the Secretary of the NQA Standards Committee at the above address. The request for an interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. It is further recommended that the Inquirer submit his/her request in the following format:

Subject:	Cite the applicable paragraph number(s) and the topic of the inquiry in one or two words.
Edition:	Cite the applicable edition of the Standard for which the interpretation is being requested.
Question:	Phrase the question as a request for an interpretation of a specific requirement suitable for general understanding and use, not as a request for an approval of a proprietary design or situation. Please provide a condensed and precise question, composed in such a way that a “yes” or “no” reply is acceptable.
Proposed Reply(ies):	Provide a proposed reply(ies) in the form of “Yes” or “No,” with explanation as needed. If entering replies to more than one question, please number the questions and replies.
Background Information:	Provide the Committee with any background information that will assist the Committee in understanding the inquiry. The Inquirer may also include any plans or drawings that are necessary to explain the question; however, they should not contain proprietary names or information.

Requests that are not in the format described above may be rewritten in the appropriate format by the Committee prior to being answered, which may inadvertently change the intent of the original request.

Moreover, ASME does not act as a consultant for specific engineering problems or for the general application or understanding of the Standard requirements. If, based on the inquiry information submitted, it is the opinion of the Committee that the Inquirer should seek assistance, the inquiry will be returned with the recommendation that such assistance be obtained.

ASME procedures provide for reconsideration of any interpretation when or if additional information that might affect an interpretation is available. Further, persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the cognizant ASME Committee or Subcommittee. ASME does not “approve,” “certify,” “rate,” or “endorse” any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

Attending Committee Meetings. The NQA Standards Committee regularly holds meetings and/or telephone conferences that are open to the public. Persons wishing to attend any meeting and/or telephone conference should contact the Secretary of the NQA Standards Committee.

ASME NQA COMMITTEE

Nuclear Quality Assurance

(The following is the roster of the Committee at the time of approval of this Standard.)

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INTRODUCTION

This Standard is to be applied to any structure, system, component, activity, or organization that is essential to the safe, reliable, and efficient performance of a nuclear facility and any activities independent of a facility that may affect performance (e.g., transportation of nuclear materials) of those activities. The extent to which this Standard should be applied depends upon the specific type of facility, items, or services involved and the nature, scope, and relative importance of the activity being performed. It is also to be applied to all phases of a nuclear facility life cycle (e.g., siting, design, construction, operation, and decommissioning) and all types of activities (e.g., training, testing, software development or use).

The Standard also applies to activities that could affect the quality of nuclear material applications, structures, systems, and components of nuclear facilities.

Examples of nuclear facilities are those for power generation, spent fuel storage, waste management, fuel reprocessing, nuclear material processing, fuel fabrication, nuclear research, and other related facilities. Examples of activities include siting, designing, procuring, developing or using software, fabricating, constructing, handling, shipping, receiving, storing, cleaning, erecting, installing, inspecting, testing, operating, maintaining, repairing, refueling, modifying, and decommissioning.

This Standard is organized in the following four parts:

(a) **Part I** contains requirements for developing and implementing a Quality Assurance Program for nuclear facility applications.

(b) **Part II** contains additional quality assurance requirements for the planning and conduct of specific work activities under a Quality Assurance Program developed in accordance with **Part I**.

(c) **Part III** contains guidance for implementing the requirements of **Parts I** and **II**.

(d) **Part IV** contains guidance for application of NQA-1 and comparisons of NQA-1 with other quality requirements.

The arrangement of the requirements in **Parts I** and **II** and the guidance in **Parts III** and **IV** permit the judicious application of the Standard or portions of the Standard. Applicable requirements of **Parts I** and **II** are to be implemented to ensure conformance with NQA-1. The application of this Standard, or portions thereof, shall be invoked by written contracts, policies, procedures, specifications, or other appropriate documents.

This Standard reflects industry experience and current understanding of the quality assurance requirements necessary to achieve safe, reliable, and efficient utilization of nuclear energy and management and processing of radioactive materials. The Standard focuses on the achievement of results, emphasizes the role of the individual and line management in the achievement and sustainment of quality, and fosters the application of these requirements in a manner consistent with the relative importance of the item or activity (i.e., a “graded approach”).