

Supplier Information Bulletin  
BQMS Certification/Registration and Survey Requirements  
July 2002

**To:** Boeing Suppliers

**Subject:** BQMS Certification/Registration and Survey Requirements

**Reference:** (a) Letter dated Dec. 30, 1999 from W. Luther, et. al to Boeing Suppliers, Subject: Boeing Quality Management System (BQMS) Requirements and Expectations  
(b) SAE AIR5359, *Requirements for Registration of Quality Systems to AS9000 or AS9100*

This bulletin provides background information relative to the Boeing decision to promote and encourage AS9100 certification/registration by an accredited certification/registration body (CRB).

The Boeing Company strongly encourages existing, approved suppliers to obtain AS9100 certification/registration from an accredited CRB in support of their Boeing Quality Management System approval. *In addition, all suppliers not currently on the Boeing approved suppliers list that require BQMS Appendix A will be required to obtain certification/registration from an accredited CRB prior to joining the Boeing team.*

**Background**

The Boeing Company requires that all elements of design, production, support, and supply chain operate to levels of quality and performance that assure safe and reliable products. Quality systems must be designed to assure that all aspects of the design, manufacture, and support of aerospace products reliably meet their intended functions. In parallel with the aerospace industry emphasis on quality systems, significant import has been attached to the methods, cost and effectiveness of quality system assessments. We know that multiple and duplicative on-site quality system surveys are disruptive and costly to a supplier and that those costs are ultimately passed along to customers, in one form or another.

In December 1999, Boeing notified suppliers of its plan to standardize to one quality management system across the company, and that consensus had been reached on a single ISO 9001-based system for Boeing suppliers (ISO 9001 as supplemented by AS9100). We call this the Boeing Quality Management System, or BQMS. Also communicated was the commitment for all Boeing sites to honor a single Boeing survey of a supplier's quality system to eliminate duplication.

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**BQMS Definition**

You'll recall that the BQMS is defined as:

- Appendix A: Quality Management System (ISO 9001 as supplemented by the requirements of AS9100), or
- Appendix B: Inspection and Test Quality System (AS9003 for suppliers requiring only an inspection and test quality system).

By now, each of you should have been notified if you are to transition to either Appendix A or B.

Our suppliers are making tremendous progress towards BQMS transition and we recognize and appreciate those efforts!

Concurrently, during this period of transition, the ISO 9001:2000 standard was released (with the 1994 version no longer available after 2003), as well as the companion AS9100:2001 standard. Effective at the beginning of 2004, Boeing will let new production contracts only to suppliers that have aligned their quality system with the BQMS (a limited-time waiver may be granted at the option of The Boeing Company).

**BQMS Survey Requirements**

The Boeing Company is required to approve each supplier's quality system, with periodic re-approval thereafter. Boeing remains responsible and accountable for such approval, CRB certified, or not. The survey, review and approval decision process includes the following:

- 1) A review of the supplier's past quality performance
- 2) A review of supplier-furnished copies of recent quality system assessments performed by other parties
- 3) An on-site Boeing survey of the supplier's quality system, if need be

***Our preference is to deal with proven suppliers with excellent quality performance and not have to do on-site quality system surveys.***

The only form of quality system assessment that will be fully recognized by Boeing in lieu of an on-site assessment is an AS9100 certification/registration performed by an accredited CRB. Objective evidence of a recent, successful, quality system assessment by another aerospace industry company may be recognized by Boeing under controlled conditions

Through our experience over the last couple of years in working closely with our suppliers, we recognize the cost advantage to both parties when a high performing supplier has a certified/registered quality system, significantly reducing on-site quality system assessments by Boeing. This becomes a win-win situation.

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**Oversight**

In addition, Boeing will maintain oversight of CRBs as required per reference (b) while we work with the aerospace industry to develop and migrate toward a common, industry-controlled process for CRB oversight. Boeing is currently developing its CRB oversight process, which will be validated with a limited number of randomly selected certified suppliers.

**Information**

Boeing recognizes the *Aerospace Industry Process for Other Party Audits* (SAE AIR 5359). We will implement this approach in accordance with regulatory approved procedures. To verify 9100 accredited status:

- Go to ANSI-RAB web site ([http://www.rabnet.com/qr\\_dir.htm](http://www.rabnet.com/qr_dir.htm)) to verify AS9100 accredited status if CRB is accredited by the Registrar Accreditation Board (RAB) in the United States.
- Go to International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) web site ([http://www.iaqg.sae.org/iaqg/audit\\_information/registrars.htm](http://www.iaqg.sae.org/iaqg/audit_information/registrars.htm)) to verify 9100 accredited status if CRB is accredited by an international accreditation body (e.g. SCC, INMETRO, JAB, SBAC, UKAS)

In addition, a special e-mail address has been established for you to share your thoughts or to ask specific questions at [pqit@pss.boeing.com](mailto: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.

We look forward to continuing our journey together with our BQMS approved suppliers.