

46.201 General.

(a) The *contracting officer shall* include in the *solicitation* and contract the appropriate quality requirements. The type and extent of contract quality requirements needed depends on the particular *acquisition* and *may* range from *inspection* at time of acceptance to a requirement for the contractor's implementation of a comprehensive program for controlling quality.

(b) As feasible, *solicitations* and contracts *may* provide for alternative, but substantially equivalent, *inspection* methods to obtain wide competition and low cost. The *contracting officer may* also authorize contractor-recommended alternatives when in the Government's interest and approved by the activity responsible for technical requirements.

(c) Although contracts generally make contractors responsible for performing *inspection* before tendering *supplies* to the Government, there are situations in which contracts will provide for specialized *inspections* to be performed solely by the Government. Among situations of this kind are-

(1) Tests that require use of specialized test equipment or facilities not ordinarily available in suppliers' plants or commercial laboratories (*e.g.*, ballistic testing of ammunition, unusual environmental tests, and simulated service tests); and

(2) Contracts that require Government testing for *first article* approval (see [subpart 9.3](#)).

(d) Except as otherwise specified by the contract, required contractor testing *may* be performed in the contractor's or subcontractor's laboratory or testing facility, or in any other laboratory or testing facility acceptable to the Government.

Parent topic: [Subpart 46.2 - Contract Quality Requirements](#)