
Quality Assurance Programs (continued)

What registered Quality Assurance Programs are available?

There are many Quality Assurance Programs around. Both the Canadian and U.S. military have developed Quality Assurance Programs. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) administers the Good Manufacturing Practices program in many areas and large corporations like Ford Motors have developed their own programs such as Q1.

The Quality Assurance Programs which are of most interest though are the Canadian Standards Association's Z299 series (administered by the QMI, a division of the CSA) and the ISO's 9000 series. The Z299 series is of interest to those whose business is mainly within Canada. The ISO 9000 series is of interest to firms with significant international markets.

* Many firms are dual-registered to both a Z299 standard and a ISO 9000 standard, for the strength of the Z299 series and the marketability of the ISO 9000 series internationally. They report similarity between the two and there are synergies to be had from implementing them both.

The CSA Z299 Series:

The CSA first published the Z299 series of Quality Assurance in 1975. It was developed from a base of military quality control programs in order to satisfy the more stringent requirements of Ontario Hydro's nuclear station developments. It has been up-dated and re-issued in 1979 and again in 1985.

There are four levels of registration, the most extensive being the Z299.1 and the least stringent being the Z299.4.

The QMI also has two background documents in the series:

Z299.0-86 is the Guide for Selecting and Implementing the CAN3-Z299-85 Quality Assurance Program Standards.

Q420-87 "Quality Management and Quality Systems Elements -- Guidelines" is an adoption of ISO 9004:1987.