

In such cases, the specification provides for advance testing of products and listing the products which successfully pass these tests, on lists known as Qualified Products Lists (QPL). These lists are then used in connection with acquisition by the Government or for the Government by its contractors. The fact that awards may be made only for products which have, prior to bid opening, been tested and approved for inclusion on the QPL, makes it necessary for the prospective suppliers to arrange for testing of their products without delay. Waiting until acquisition has been initiated usually does not allow sufficient time for the testing to be completed prior to bid opening.

When it has been determined that a product must be subjected to qualification testing, relevant information will appear in the applicable Specification.

3.3.1 Obtaining Qualification Approval

The adoption by Canada of the United States MIL (Military) Specifications for many parts and materials, and production in Canada to these Specifications, has simplified production sharing of these products.

Where both countries adhere to MIL Specifications, they produce identical items evaluated and approved by the same methods. An agreement has been negotiated between Canada and the United States, entitled "U.S.-Canada Agreement for Qualification of Products of Non-Resident Manufacturers".

The agreement allows one country's products to be listed by the other country in its Qualified Products List (QPL).

The scope of the agreement is indicated in the list of the Federal Supply Classes in Section 5. It should be noted that these classes cover a broad range of items, not all of which require qualification approval.

3.3.2 Procedure for Canadian Manufacturers

When a Canadian manufacturer wishes to supply a product covered by a Specification requiring qualification approval, he should first review the Specification and determine by actual test whether his product complies with the design and/or performance limits of the Specification.

If the product falls into one of the classes covered by the Reciprocal Agreement the manufacturer should request qualification action from:

Department of National Defence
Chief of Engineering and Maintenance
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2
Attn: DEMPS

Upon receipt of the request, DND will determine the eligibility of the parts for qualification and in most cases assess the manufacturer's in-plant test laboratory for ability to satisfy all the test requirements of the specification. Qualification tests will be conducted in the manufacturer's approved in-plant laboratory or in an approved commercial laboratory at the expense of the manufacturer, under DND supervision. The manufacturer will be notified

whether the product has met the qualification requirements of the Specification, in which case it will be listed on the appropriate Canadian QPL.

Having received qualification approval in Canada a Canadian company seeking a listing on a U.S. QPL must adhere to the following procedure to obtain listing on a U.S. QPL.

- a) The Canadian manufacturer requests DND to apply to the appropriate qualification authority in the United States for recognition of the Canadian Approval and listing on the U.S. QPL. DND, upon receipt of this request, will forward to the U.S. qualifying agency the necessary technical information including test reports and related engineering data for its consideration. If the tests upon which qualification were based were done in a facility located in the Canadian plant, then a report on the test facility will also be forwarded.
- b) The qualifying agency has 60 days upon receipt of the application to advise the Canadian manufacturer if it is prepared to recognize the approval and subsequently place the name of the Canadian company on the U.S. QPL. If for some reason the U.S. qualifying agency does not regard the supporting data as adequate, DND will be so advised and requested to supply further information.

NOTE: THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER MUST HAVE RECEIVED HIS CANADIAN QUALIFICATION APPROVAL TO THE SPECIFICATION OF THE ISSUE AND DATE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT IN THE U.S.

3.3.3. Remarks

The fact that a product has been tested and included on a Qualified Products List is evidence only that a manufacturer can make a product of a type and grade which meets the Specification requirements. The qualification procedure is intended to eliminate delay in delivery of products by providing assurance prior to award of contract that the prospective supplier can produce a product which will meet the requirements of the Specification. It is neither a supplement to, nor a substitute for acceptance testing under contract. Inclusion on a list does not in any way relieve the manufacturer of his contractual obligation to furnish products which meet all the Specification requirements. The listing does not guarantee acceptance of the product in any future purchase nor does it constitute a waiver of the requirements of the Specification as to acceptance, inspection, testing or other provisions of any contract.

When the Canadian manufacturer's name is on the U.S. QPL most technical barriers to acceptance of the product will have been removed with regard to U.S. contracts for parts to MIL Specifications.