



policy NEWS.

QUICK FACTS ON THE UPDATES TO NPR 8735.2B

POLICY: NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR) 8735.2B, Management of Government Quality Assurance Functions for NASA Contracts

WHEN: Aug. 12, 2013

WHAT: The **definition** of “**critical acquisition item**” was **clarified** with the inclusion of detailed qualifiers and references to mission and payload classifications contained in other NASA documents.

WHY: The revision makes the identification of critical acquisition items easier. Under the previous NPR, critical acquisitions were defined qualitatively and it was not always clear what qualified as a critical item.

WHAT: A **note** was added **clarifying** how Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 12 and Space Act Agreements **constrain government quality assurance**.

WHY: The previous NPR did not reflect these new, common ways of acquiring items. Language was needed to ensure practitioners are aware of the limitations attached to these types of acquisitions.

WHAT: New language **explains** NASA’s **options for assuring** the **quality** of commercial items acquired under FAR Part 12.

WHY: Although FAR Part 12 prevents typical government quality assurance functions, some verification and review of critical and complex items are permissible and should be completed.

WHAT: A new section addresses **Commercially Available Off-the-Shelf** (COTS) items.

WHY: Due to heightened risk, COTS purchases of critical items should be performed only as needed and carefully controlled.

WHAT: A section on **research and development acquisitions** was **added**, including specific quality system evaluations that must occur at contractor facilities.

WHY: The previous version of the NPR did not outline these types of acquisitions or the necessary evaluations; such clarifications were necessary for proper quality assurance.

continued on back

QUICK FACTS ON THE UPDATES TO NPR 8735.2B CONTINUED

WHAT: The revised NPR provides **exemptions** to the requirement to **review a contractor's quality system processes** every three years, at a minimum.

WHY: The exemptions provide cost savings in circumstances where there is high confidence that the contractor will supply conforming products and such quality reviews are unnecessary.

WHAT: The updated NPR requires the program, project, center Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) office, or delegated representatives of those offices to **forward quality system audit results** involving findings against agency-wide standards to Supplier Assessment System (SAS) administrators **for posting to the SAS website**.

WHY: The new requirement can potentially result in substantial cost savings by eliminating unnecessary and duplicate audits.

WHAT: Exceptions were added to the requirement to perform **Government Mandatory Inspection Points** for all safety-critical attributes.

WHY: Verifying every safety-critical attribute is costly; the exemptions can save money without compromising technical rigor or undertaking undue risk if conducted under carefully evaluated and controlled conditions.

TAKE ACTION

These changes affect all NASA programs and projects. Program and project managers should review the revised standard and share it with their teams. Center SMA and Quality organizations involved with acquisitions also need to review this document and work with program and project offices to effectively implement the changes.

Have questions on the updated NPR? Contact Brian Hughitt, NASA Technical Fellow for Quality Engineering, at Brian.Hughitt-1@nasa.gov.

or

View the official NASA document at
<http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?t=NPR&c=8735&s=2A>