

Addressing Industry Challenges in NQA-1 Implementation: Insights and Efforts by the NQA Committee

Presented by:

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Thursday, March 13, 2025

NRC Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) TH18

Overview

1. Understanding of current challenges when implementing NQA-1?
2. What is the NQA Committee?
3. What is the NQA Committee doing to address these challenges?
4. How can you get involved?
5. Questions

What are the current challenges when implementing NQA-1?

NQA needs a graded approach!

NQA is too hard!

I don't understand this 38-word sentence?

At my last company we did it this way...

The last auditor said we had to...

NQA is too expensive! A \$100 valve is \$10,000 if procured to meet NQA!



What is the NQA Committee?

NQA-1 is a *Voluntary Consensus Standard* published by the ASME.

The NQA Standards Committee administers the NQA-1 Standard.

Our committee:

- Consists of a **balanced** industry and government volunteers
- **Reports** to the ASME Board on Nuclear, Clean Energy, Power, and Facilities Codes and Standards (BNCS)
- Develops the Standard using American National Standards Institute (**ANSI**) accredited **approved procedure** for a Standards Developing Organization (**SDO**)

NQA-1: “*Three-Cs Initiative*”

A Three-Part Plan for Excellence —

- 1) **Clarify** the standard with clear language for better user understanding.
- 2) **Clean up** and enhance training with an ASME/NQA-controlled knowledge exam.
- 3) **Create** a new product and/or guideline that integrates industry lessons learned and applies a graded approach.

Clear, Clean, Create — Driving Quality Forward

Clarify: Clear Language for Part I (1-18) by 2026 Edition

Objective:

To ensure that:

1. Requirements IN = Requirements OUT.
2. The reader can clearly find and understand the requirements.
3. It is clear as to “*who is supposed to do what*” .

DRAFT: NQA Requirement 5 CLEAR Language

Original

100 GENERAL

Activities affecting quality and services shall be prescribed by and performed in accordance with documented instructions, procedures, or drawings that include or reference appropriate quantitative or qualitative acceptance criteria for determining that prescribed activities have been satisfactorily accomplished. (39) The activity shall be described to a level of detail commensurate with the complexity of the activity and the need to assure consistent and acceptable results. (26) The need for, and level of detail in, written procedures or instructions shall be determined based upon complexity of the task, the significance of the item or activity, work environment, and worker proficiency and capability (education, training, experience). (38)

Proposed New Text

100 GENERAL

The organization shall prescribe and perform activities affecting quality using approved and documented instructions, procedures, or drawings.

These documents shall prescribe appropriate qualitative or quantitative acceptance criteria to complete these activities satisfactorily.

These documents shall include details of the activities to assure acceptable and consistent results.

The following factors shall determine the need for, and the level of detail within these documents:

- a) complexity of the task
- b) significance of the item or activity
- c) work environment
- d) worker education, training, experience, and proficiency.

Clean Up: Training & Industry Knowledge

1. **Current ASME Training:** Select NQA members are now reviewing and providing feedback on ASME NQA Training (potentially add ASME NQA Training Exams).



2. **NEW/UPCOMING – ASME NQA Base Knowledge Exam:** Based on feedback from the industry, concern that NQA is not fully understood nor implemented as intended.

Create: NEW Guidance on NQA QA Graded Approach Philosophy & **NEW** Derivative Product

Add a Part III to NQA-1: Guidance on Applying NQA Graded Approach and/or Guidance on Risk-Informed Approach (Subpart 3.1-2.5)

NQA-10 Based on 10CFR830 Subpart A 10 Criteria – New Product (versus 10CFR50 Appendix B) – also incorporate lessons learned and acknowledge less Hazard Category I



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Recap

1. Understanding of challenges when implementing NQA-1?
2. What is the NQA Committee?
3. What is the NQA Committee doing to address these challenges?
4. How can you get involved?
5. Questions

Questions?