



DEFA

Supplier Quality Manual

DEFA Supplier Quality Manual				
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PREFACE

This manual has been created to assist our suppliers in understanding the purchasing expectations and quality requirements for products supplied to the DEFA. The manual is also a tool to assist DEFA in complying with Quality Management System certification standards and to develop our suppliers.

In order for DEFA to maintain certification compliance to requirements, suppliers to DEFA must achieve certification by an accredited certification body to a current version of the ISO 9001 Quality Management System (at minimum) with IATF 16949, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 as required.

When circumstances dictate the requirements and expectations of this manual may be extended to comply with customer specific requirements, statutory and regulatory requirements.

Through implementation and adherence to the standards stated herein, DEFA looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with our suppliers.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This manual has been developed to communicate the operating principles, general expectations, requirements, and procedures of DEFA. Adherence to the guidelines described in this manual is required by all DEFA suppliers. Acceptance of any and/or all purchase orders constitutes acceptance and commitment on behalf of the recipient to comply with this manual's content. This manual supplements the supply agreement between DEFA and the supplier, and it describes the minimum requirements and expectations for the supplier's quality system and quality assurance work and procedures. Further requirements may be applicable depending on DEFA's end customer requirements. However, system improvements that exceed the requirements specified within this manual are always encouraged.

1.2 Purpose

We depend on customer satisfaction, where you as a supplier of DEFA you play a critical role for us to deliver value throughout the supply chain. We expect that DEFA suppliers support our commitments as described in latest version of DEFA's Sustainability, Quality, Health, Safety & Environmental Policy (<http://www.defa.com>). It defines expectations to ensure that all suppliers contribute to:

- Delivering high quality and safe products through a zero-defect and zero-harm mindset
- Promoting continuous improvement across quality, sustainability, health and safety
- Complying with internationally recognized standards and directives such as ISO9001 (minimum), IATF 16949 (where applicable), ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 and/or relevant environmental and health and safety legislation
- Supporting DEFA's endorsement of the UN Global Compact, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ISO 26000, and ILO conventions

It is expected that all suppliers embrace responsible sourcing, ethical business conduct, and environmentally conscious practices. By doing so, we create a transparent and collaborative supply chain, engage stakeholders, and minimize risk throughout our operations.

All DEFA functions and suppliers are expected to work with improvement, apply structured quality tools, and work proactively to reduce process variation, ensure compliance; this to support a more sustainable future.

1.3 Application

The expectations and requirements described in this manual apply to all suppliers of prototype and serial production products. Suppliers must meet all applicable requirements specified herein including all product related Customer Specific Requirements as required. DEFA recommends the use of all standard AIAG core tools (APQP, PPAP, FMEA, MSA and SPC) and CQI special process requirements as the basis for all process and product quality assurance.

1.4 Implementation

Suppliers are responsible for the development, documentation, implementation, and maintenance of an ISO 9001 Quality Management System according to the latest revision. Suppliers are also encouraged to become certified (as appropriate) to the automotive

standard IATF 16949, the environmental management system ISO 14001 and the Health and Safety management system ISO 45001.

When circumstances dictate additional requirements to this manual may be required to comply with DEFA's specific customer requirements, statutory and regulatory requirements.

2 DEFA Expectation

2.1 Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility

DEFA expects all suppliers to support our sustainability and corporate social responsibility goals. This includes minimizing environmental impact through resource efficiency, energy conservation, and waste reduction, as well as prioritizing the use of sustainable materials and processes. In addition, suppliers must uphold ethical business practices, respect human rights, and ensure safe and fair working conditions throughout their operations and supply chains. Compliance with international frameworks such as the UN Global Compact, ISO 26000, and ILO conventions is required, and DEFA reserves the right to assess supplier performance in these areas through audits or declarations.

2.2 Engineering / Technical Support

DEFA is dedicated to the manufacture of the highest quality products. In order for this objective to be achieved, all suppliers shall offer engineering and technical support to DEFA when said support is requested.

2.3 Manufacture Capability / Capacity / Location

Suppliers are expected to have the resources necessary (people, property, facilities, equipment and materials) to supply the products required to accommodate DEFA's project and production schedule.

2.4 Consistent Quality

Zero-defect products are required from suppliers to DEFA. Any deviation from this will result in rejection and return of the product to the supplier with subsequent charges attached. The supplier is expected to reduce any ongoing fault rates by half, year by year, failure to improve may mean invoking the DEFA escalation process. Payment by DEFA shall not constitute acceptance. Even after acceptance of a shipment, DEFA reserves the right to return any material that proves to be defective for full credit. Defective material shall be returned at the supplier's expense and account debited accordingly. Additional charges for sorting, administrative fees and other related costs (extra transport, end customer charges, etc.) will also be added.

2.5 Cooperative Management Attitude

DEFA expects our supplier's top management to share our commitment to meet or exceed our customer's quality expectations through continuous improvements. It is also expected that the entire supplier organization will give their full support to the relationship that exists between our companies and demonstrate flexibility in assisting DEFA in meeting all of our customer's requirements.

The Supplier is required to maintain a DEFA plant contact, who can be readily available to assist in solving problems when needed.

2.6 Rights of Verification of Products/Processes

DEFA reserves the right to verify the products and manufacturing processes at the supplier's premises by DEFA representatives, our customer and/or their customer. This can be done by different kinds of audits and the supplier will be notified in advance.

3 Supplier Selection Monitoring

3.1 Supplier Assessment and Selection

DEFA's supply base shall consist of organizations supportive of our business needs. DEFA utilizes controlled methods through which suppliers are evaluated, selected, developed and monitored.

Criteria for assessment and selection of suppliers, for placement on DEFA's Preferred Suppliers List, is based on the supplier's abilities to meet and/or exceed minimum quality and purchasing requirements and expectations.

3.2 Supplier monitoring

All claims related to suppliers will be reported internally within DEFA. On a monthly basis the quality department will present internal reports based on this data (e.g. PPM and number of claims) and follow up the suppliers that cannot meet our requirements. As required DEFA will call these suppliers for meetings and will expect that the top management is involved and can show us their action plans to solve the problem. New Business on Hold status and escalation can be raised if there is a shortcoming in the supplier's performance, audit result and/or their ability to solve the problems.

4 Quality Management System

4.1 Quality Management System

Our suppliers are required to be certified to the latest revision of ISO 9001 Quality Management System by an accredited 3rd party registration body. Suppliers are however encouraged to implement an IATF 16949 Automotive Quality Management System. The suppliers are encouraged to implement ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and ISO 45001 Health and Safety Management System or at least have other similar environmental and Health and Safety Management System in place. Suppliers Quality Management System shall be formally documented, implemented and maintained to ensure that supplier's products conform to the identified purchase specifications, engineering or material specifications and/or contract requirements. The system shall be defined and documented in the supplier's own quality manual. This manual shall be made available to DEFA for review upon request.

4.2 Product Quality

Suppliers are fully responsible for the quality of their products including sub-suppliers. All suppliers are responsible providing products that meet all DEFA's requirements, specifications, and drawings as identified on the purchase order and that the products are free from defects as warranted in DEFA's General Purchasing Conditions. Zero-defect products are required from all suppliers.

4.3 Quality Planning (QAP/APQP)

All suppliers are required to complete, sign and return a QAP/APQP on all projects (new or changed parts) according to the provided time schedule, and report on the activities as requested. Any change in the time schedule needs to be approved by DEFA. This process will be followed up by the DEFA responsible Project Supplier Quality Engineer as identified in the QAP.

4.4 Handling of Non PPAP Approved Parts

If requested, for all deliveries of prototype, first off tool and pre-series components, the supplier must provide, as minimum, an inspection report detailing:

- Five parts per batch: full 100% control on all characteristics (must be separately identified).
- The remaining parts: inspection of all key characteristics defined on the drawing, specification or as detailed in the QAP/APQP process.

4.5 Production Part Approval Process (PPAP)

The PPAP with all requested documentation and samples shall be sent free of charge according to the QAP/APQP process shall be available or submitted on the agreed date, failure to meet agreed project timing (QAP timing) may mean escalation process being invoked. This documentation shall show that all requirements specified in our drawings and specifications are fulfilled.

The supplier can apply for an Interim approval (identified in the PSW) if the part or documentation cannot conform to all specified requirements. The supplier must apply for this as soon as they see that they cannot present a complete PPAP on the agreed date. The Interim approval shall specify what requirement the supplier cannot fulfill and an action plan showing how and when the part (e.g.: 100% sorting before shipping to DEFA) or

documentation will be according to specification. An interim approval is always restricted for a limited number of parts or time period.

DEFA reserves the right to inspect these samples for conformance and will return a signed Warrant indicating whether it is approved to produce parts for serial production purposes. This report will be submitted to the Supplier. Shipping of serial production material is only allowed with an approved PSW (Part submission Warrant) or a signed Interim Approval by DEFA.

4.6 Serial Production Ramp Up Inspection

At the Start Of Production (SOP) the Supplier is required to implement a reinforced inspection according to agreed Quality Assurance Plan (QAP), this might be related to a period of time or a specific number of produced parts. The reinforced inspection shall continue until no defects are found according to the agreement. This reinforced inspection plan must contain all key characteristics defined on the drawing as a minimum requirement and will require submission and approval by the receiving DEFA plant before the SOP. It must be submitted during the QAP/APQP process and is a part of the PPAP submission.

The reinforced inspection plan will as a minimum be subject to the following rules:

- 100% inspection of all key characteristics based on the DEFA requirements and/or non- conforming capability results.
- The production control plan frequency shall be doubled for all other characteristics.
- For appearance items 100% inspection shall be based on the approved Boundary and Master Samples.

4.7 Product Re-Validations

When DEFA requests a product re-validation of serial parts, all supplier part approval documents must not be more than one year old. Standard product re-validation documents as measurement reports, material certificates, control plan, FMEA, etc. are to be submitted upon request.

4.8 Statistical Process Control (SPC)

Statistical data shall be provided as required by the DEFA representative, as identified by the respective engineering drawing, applicable specifications or standards, and/or the purchase order.

4.8.1 Critical Characteristics

Designated critical characteristics shall be subject to continuous ongoing Statistical Process Control. Other characteristics may be called out for initial or continuing SPC control.

Customers generally select special characteristics (dimensions, material etc.,) impacted by safety standards and/or critical fit to function. These are identified by symbols in product drawings and specifications. Where applicable, if any production Critical characteristics are not shown on the drawings, the supplier is asked to identify them from a production perspective and identify them in Control Plans.

Capability Studies and Statistical Process Control shall be performed in accordance with the rules defined in the latest edition of the AIAG PPAP and SPC manuals.

4.8.2 Initial Capability

Products are taken from pre-production at the manufacturing location(s) and analyzed statistically. Parts from each unique production process e.g. duplicate assembly line and/or work cell, each position of a multiple cavity die, mould or pattern, shall be measured and representative parts tested. DEFA's requirement on initial capability studies are Min 1,67 Ppk. A Pp of minimum 2,0 can also be required.

For non-critical dimensions a minimum Ppk of 1,33 may be required.

4.8.3 On-going Control

For critical or agreed characteristics where the process can be adjusted during the production run, SPC will be used to control the process output. If nothing else is agreed the DEFA requirement on serial production capability is Min 1,33 Cpk. In the event of noncompliance with the capability requirements, the supplier is required to perform 100% inspection (visual inspection is not accepted) and/or to implement a mechanical Poka-Yoke on the corresponding characteristics until the agreed action plan is completed and the capability results fully comply with the requirements. These actions (100% inspection or addition of mechanical Poka-Yoke) will have to be fully documented in the Control Plan and the process FMEA.

4.9 Process Records

Process verification and inspection records shall be maintained and be available for DEFA upon request. All records shall be retained for a time period of minimum 3 years after production end or for an agreed period of time.

As a minimum or as designated in the QAP / CSR's, during the serial production, the supplier shall maintain:

- Process change record
- Ongoing quality control records
- Production record

4.10 Non-Conforming Product Control

If a supplier's parts are found to be out of agreement the supplier will be notified by DEFA personnel using 'quality level 1 escalation' to provide immediate containment and support to resolve the problem using the 8D format and Root Cause Analysis tools.

A most serious concern is when a supplier product/process shuts down a DEFA production line making delivery to a DEFA customer late. Any condition causing line shutdown and late shipment warrants the supplier's immediate action to eliminate the condition. **The supplier is responsible to address containment of the problem at their facility, parts in transit, parts in DEFA stocks and at DEFA end customer(s), including Safety Stocks.**

If requested by DEFA a supplier or a supplier hired third party company (can be directed by DEFA) may send in a team to sort parts in house at the supplier expense. If DEFA must sort supplier parts in order to keep production supplied with defect free components, the Supplier will be charged for the sorting cost. This charge may be applied to both components and finished assemblies in which the components are used. If a supplier defect causes DEFA's finished product to be reworked or scrapped, all charges incurred will be the

responsibility of the supplier. All other related costs will be charged to the supplier including eventual costs from DEFA's customer.

If a supplier cannot implement a permanent corrective action to supply zero defects to DEFA and problems continue, DEFA will implement a 'quality level 2 escalation'. This shall include a containment process that must be implemented until the supplier has shown their ability to ship defect-free material on a continuous basis as outlined in escalation letter. A DEFA representative will follow up the containment actions.

If another defect is found within this containment period, 'quality level 3 escalation' -New Business on Hold, will be implemented at the Suppliers' expense. The escalation process is not designed to penalize suppliers, but the purpose is to assist and support suppliers in their effort to achieve DEFA's targets, requirements and to prevent any non-conforming part to be delivered.

If a supplier detects non-conforming products prior to shipment to DEFA, the supplier must immediately determine the extent of the problem and take actions to ensure no defective products are shipped to DEFA. If suspect material has been shipped, the supplier must notify all DEFA user plants and implement all necessary actions to prevent the material being used in production.

Any rework or repairs to suspect material must be conducted in a controlled manner that assures that the reworked or repaired product meets DEFA specifications. Written instructions should detail the rework or repair, the re inspection of reworked product and the return of this product to normal production flow.

A formal interim approval request using an 'EFR' (Exemption Form Requirement) that includes deviation and corrective action information from the supplier must be sent to DEFA, and an approval must be received from the user plant before any reworked material is shipped to DEFA.

A copy of the vendor complaint will be distributed to the supplier when defective material has been found, initial response with initial containment must be completed and returned latest within 24 hours, corrective actions must be defined and reported within 7 calendar days unless otherwise agreed. The supplier is expected to implement all necessary actions to close the 8D within 30 calendar days unless otherwise agreed. The supplier will be notified if any aspect of the 8D report is not acceptable and will be required to resubmit the updated report in a timely fashion. Failure to meet agreed timing in completing the 8D may invoke the DEFA escalation process.

4.11 Supplier Request for Change Approval

Any changes on the product, manufacturing process (including production location) or sub-supplier that may result in an impact on product quality and/or performance must be reviewed and approved with DEFA in writing. The supplier shall submit a 'Change Request' to DEFA specifying the change and the implementation plan. DEFA will then investigate the possibility to implement the change and will inform the supplier when a decision has been

taken. A re-validation PPAP of the part and manufacturing process will be requested if the change is accepted.

Any changes on serial products or serial manufacturing processes implemented without DEFA approval will be handled as a trust violation between our companies and invoking the DEFA escalation process.

4.12 IMDS and/or CAMDS reporting

As requested on drawing and/ or QAP, components/Semi components/Materials delivered to DEFA must be declared by supplier in IMDS (International Material Data System), CAMDS (China Automotive Material Data System) or with a separate full material declaration. For each product/part number, the supplier shall submit a MDS (Material Data Sheet) consisting of a declaration of all materials included and their weight. The MDS must be accepted by DEFA before the PPAP/PSW can be approved.

4.13 Special Processes

If required during the QAP/APQP process suppliers shall comply with the requested AIAG standards related to special processes, for example:

- CQI-9 Special Process: Heat Treat System Assessment
- CQI-11 Special Process: Plating System Assessment
- CQI-12 Special Process: Coating System Assessment

Full list of all AIAG CQI standards can be found and purchased at www.aiag.org/

4.14 REACH, SCIP, RoHS and Conflict Minerals Compliance

As required during the QAP/APQP process suppliers shall comply with the latest versions of; the EU's Registration Evaluation Authorization and restriction of CHemicals (REACH) requirement, the information on Substances of Concern In Articles as such or in complex objects / Products (SCIP), the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive and Conflict Minerals reporting.

The supplier must stay updated on evolving substance restrictions and proactively update the relevant documentation.

REACH makes industry responsible for assessing and managing the risks posed by chemicals and providing appropriate safety information to their users. In parallel, the European Union can take additional measures on highly dangerous substances, where there is a need for complementing action at EU level.

Reference: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/reach_en

SCIP is the database for information on substances of concern in articles as such or in complex objects (products) established under the Waste Framework Directive (WFD)

Reference: [SCIP - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](http://scip.echa.europa.eu)

RoHS is the directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment and impacts the entire electronics industry and many other electrical products as well.

Reference: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/harmonised-standards/restriction-of-hazardous-substances_en

Conflict Minerals requires SME's to report their responsible global mineral supply chains by implementing a comprehensive SME due diligence reporting system regarding mineral and metals with a focus on tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (3TG).

Reference: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/support-smes-mineral-supply-chain-due-diligence-implementation-phase_en

4.15 Material Safety Data Sheet

A material safety data sheet in accordance with GHS guideline must be sent and approved by the receiving DEFA plant before delivery, of any chemicals used in production processes is allowed. The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is an international approach to hazard communication, providing agreed criteria for classification of chemical hazards, and a standardized approach to label elements and safety data sheets.

4.16 Product Traceability

All Suppliers to DEFA must have an identification system that distinguishes one lot/batch/part from another when shipping finished product.

Each lot/batch/part of material should be clearly identified on the product (where applicable) according to the part drawing or as agreed if not specified on the drawing, and on the product packaging.

The traceability system must comply with the FIFO (First In – First Out) principles for incoming and outgoing material.

Suppliers are highly recommended to look into the digital traceability expectations set by the European Union's Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) which came into force July 18, 2024 where the requirements for Digital Product Passport are set. Further information can be found here: <https://commission.europa.eu/>

4.17 Tools & Gauges Labeling

All Tools and Gauges, property of DEFA, or belonging to DEFA on the behalf of DEFA Customers, must be properly labeled by the supplier according to DEFA requirements in tool purchasing order.

4.18 Continuous Improvement

Continuous improvement in the quality of products and/or manufacturing processes are key to be a supplier to DEFA. The supplier should maintain documented evidence of continuous improvement for review upon request by DEFA's representative. All suppliers shall show a proactive approach that supports driving the reduction of process variation and waste within their business, utilizing continuous improvement tools and techniques.

DEFA may offer a supplier development program workshop to our preferred partners to continue successful growth of the business and improve performance related to quality and delivery. We will need the supplier's full commitment in order to achieve a successful activity if agreed to this joint activity.

4.19 Product Safety / Product Liability

Suppliers to DEFA have the responsibility for all product safety and product liability in delivered parts, including their Sub-suppliers that are used in finished DEFA products. The Supplier shall implement an organization, a process and tools to ensure the product safety of its parts and their sub-supplier's parts to minimize product liability risks.

All suppliers shall appoint and communicate a qualified PSR (Product Safety Responsible) contact person for DEFA, including emergency phone number (24/7) and e-mail. This appointed person shall be registered in DEFA supplier contact system. It is the responsibility of the supplier to ensure that DEFA has the correct information.

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2.00	20.08.2025	First page - date removed.
1.00	28.05.2025	Upload from old system - where the following updates were made: Chapter "1.2 Purpose" is updated Chapter "2.1 Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility" added to include sustainability social responsibility Chapter "4.1 Quality Management System", clarification regarding ISO14001 and ISO45001. Chapter "4.14 REACH, SCIP, RoHS and Conflict Minerals Compliance" clarification about the required documents. Chapter "4.16 4.16 Product Traceability", note about Digital Product Passport" added.

References:

Internal references

External references