

NNS Supplier Quality: Technical Supplier Workshops

Background

In 2009, Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) Supplier Quality recognized a need to move in a more proactive direction with the supply base. To achieve a marked improvement in quality, NNS wished to establish a teaming approach with our suppliers. We wanted to move away from the 'policing' oversight of audits to a 'collaborative' effort, and the Technical Supplier Workshop was created.

The Technical Supplier Workshop is an inclusive and collaborative working session with the Supplier to identify and address regulatory and contractual requirements which impact the Supplier's Quality Operating System (QOS) to ensure complete compliance first time and thereafter.

It is a deep dive event to identify and create solutions to any gaps or potential failure points.

It is a journey of discovery leading to solutions and actions to take BOTH of us from good to better.

It is flexible and tailored to the needs of the supplier in meeting requirements.

Benefits

It is a supplier-owned action plan to correct any identified issues within the QOS, as opposed to an opportunity to 'beat the supplier up'.

It drives cost-effective and timely delivery of compliant and conforming material, equipment and services to HII-NNS.

It is also an HII-NNS action plan for those actions owned by HII-NNS.

Process Overview

The process is generally performed in three steps, over three days.

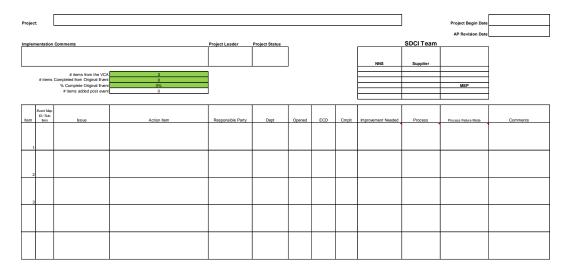
First, the process of interest is mapped out by creating the flow from the event backward. The purpose of this step is to identify the process steps, identify the requirements and where they fit into the process, and identify any gaps and additional opportunities for improvement.

Second, solutions are created for all gaps and potential failure points.

Third, actions are created for each solution. The actions are specific, owners identified, due dates established, and verification/validation methods defined.

Process Map





For the Workshop, who is needed from your organization?

• Key members of the QOS, such as the Production Manager, Quality Manager, Contracts person, and the Purchasing Manager need to be committed for the three days. Subject matter experts will be identified and brought in as those areas of interest are discussed.

For the Workshop, who will be there from NNS?

• Two facilitators of the process from Supplier Quality, and if possible the cognizant Sourcing representative.

Post Workshop:

- The supplier will work to their action plan.
- The Supplier Quality Engineer (SQE) will oversee the supplier's progress, establishing a frequency and method of communications

Types of Workshops:

- Overall Quality System
- Level 1 Program Compliance
- Tech Pub Welding/NDT compliance
- Process Specific, i.e. Contract Review, Inspection, Purchasing, etc.
- Etc.