

GENERAL DYNAMICS Ordinance and Tactical Systems	ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA		
	SUPPLIER QUALITY CLAUSE		
TITLE FIRST ARTICLE ACCEPTANCE TESTS AND INSPECTIONS	QUALITY CLAUSE S11	REVISION 3	EFFECTIVE DATE OCTOBER 14, 2025
Material and/or services supplied to purchase orders must be in accordance with all quality clause requirements and any additional requirements outlined on the Purchase Order.			

1.0 REFERENCES

- MIL-STD-1168 (Revision As defined in the TDPL): Ammunition Lot Numbering and Ammunition Data Card

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

First Article (FA), First Article Acceptance Inspection (FAAI), First Article Acceptance Test (FAAT), First Article Inspection (FAI), and First Article Test (FAT) shall be considered synonymous (“the same”) for the purpose of this clause.

When specified as a line item on the Subcontract/Purchase Order (PO); the subcontractor shall perform a FAAT.

The subcontractor shall assume that all USG contracts require the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Quality Assurance Representative (QAR) to witness the FAAT. Other USG representatives may also witness the FAAT. The subcontractor shall also assume that GD-OTS will witness all FAAT’s, regardless of whether it supports a USG or a commercial contract.

FAAT samples shall be selected in accordance with the QAP or subcontract requirements, that are representative of the items to be manufactured in production, using the same processes, procedures, facilities, equipment, tooling, measuring and test equipment, and sources of supply. All data collected shall be from the same components specified in the FAAT Plan and approved by GD-OTS and the USG.

If specified in the QAP or subcontract requirements, FAAT Samples may be returned to the production lot.

All costs associated with conducting a FAAT shall be borne by the subcontractor, except where outlined as a line item in the Subcontract/PO.

If the FAAT is disapproved or rejected, the subcontractor shall repeat any or all FAAT test and inspections. All supplier costs related to these repeat tests and inspections are to be borne by the subcontractor.

Configuration control changes that affect fit form or function of the component may require a new FAAT. GD-OTS shall define changes through the Supply Chain Representative (SCR) and purchase order changes as necessary.

2.1 CHANGE REQUIRING FIRST ARTICLE ACCEPTANCE TESTING

A FAAT or FAAT waiver (as defined in section 2.3) will be required if any of the following conditions apply:

- Technical Data Package changes.
- A new or first-time production of a component, subassembly or assembly by the subcontractor.
- A change is made to the items specification(s), Quality Assurance Provision(s) (QAP), or applicable drawings listed in the Technical Data Package List (TDPL).
- A lapse in production for a period more than 90 calendar days unless otherwise directed in the PO

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or Special Instructions document provided to the subcontractor by General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems (GD-OTS).

- A change occurs in the place of performance, manufacturing process, process sequence, equipment (including any physical movement of the equipment), source of supply, and/or material used. Note: This includes whenever the material is changed, or the material supplier changes even if the drawing allows the option of multiple materials and/or sources of supply.

2.2 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE REQUIRING FIRST ARTICLE ACCEPTANCE TESTING

When the subcontractor intends to make a process change GD-OTS must be immediately notified in writing through the SCR prior to the change. Process changes defined by the supplier shall not be implemented into production without FAAT or concurrence by GD-OTS in writing. The contractor official notification shall contain, at a minimum:

- the reason for the change or lapse in production
- a detailed description of the change
- date of last production of the item(s)
- date of the last FAAT performed
- date the new FAAT can be conducted taking into account contract required notification requirements

GD-OTS Quality Engineering will evaluate the reported condition to determine if a FAAT is required and respond accordingly to the subcontractor in writing through the SCR.

2.3 FAAT EXCEPTIONS OR WAIVER

Exception to or waiver of First Article Acceptance Tests requirements shall be submitted in writing as QCD S11-1. For the exception or waiver to be valid, the subcontractor must have a written approval from GD-OTS. Submittal of exceptions or waivers by the subcontractor is NOT a guarantee that the exceptions will be approved.

Subcontractors shall request permission for FAAT samples, conforming to all drawing requirements to be used as part of the production lot quantity. This request should be included in FAAT Plan.

2.4 NOTIFICATION OF PRE-FAAT AND FAAT

The subcontractor shall provide written notification of the proposed dates for Pre-FAAT and FAAT to the GD-OTS quality engineer and supply chain representative. The notification of Pre-FAAT and FAAT shall be as follows:

- CONUS 30 calendar days prior to Pre-FAAT and FAAT as referenced in QCD S11-5
- OCONUS 100 calendar days Prior to Pre-FAAT and FAAT as referenced in QCD S11-5

NOTE: Verbal notification of Pre-FAAT and FAAT dates during a IPT meeting are not considered a formal notification.

Any updates to the scheduled Pre-FAAT or FAAT dates shall be communicated within one week of the change to the GD-OTS quality engineer and supply chain representative and include a tentative reschedule date.

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2.5 FAAT PLAN

The contractor shall develop a FAAT PLAN. The format and content of this plan shall be in accordance with Table 1: FAAT PLAN & FAAT REPORT DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS.

GD-OTS reserves the right to generate the FAAT PLAN or Limited FAAT PLAN on behalf of the contractor. The contractor will be given the opportunity to review the FAAT PLAN and provide feedback (acceptance or changes required) to GD-OTS. The supplier shall provide feedback through Supply Chain Management and copy GD-OTS Quality Engineering of the supplier's disposition of the document.

2.6 FAAT REPORT

The contractor shall develop a FAAT Report after completion of the test utilizing the previously approved FAAT Plan. The FAAT Report content shall be in accordance with Table 1: FAAT PLAN & FAAT REPORT DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS.

Table 1: FAAT PLAN & FAAT REPORT DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS	
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Cover and Title Page, Supplier internal revision and date of the FAAT Plan
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Scope – defining qty to be inspected, purpose for the FAAT (I.E. change of material, movement of equipment, configuration change ...)
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Sub-contractor's name and address
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	USG Contract number (if applicable) and contract line item number (CLIN)
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Part Number, Part Name, Revision,
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	QAP Title(s), Revision(s)
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Applicable approved RFV(s) or ECP(s) applicable and USG approvals
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Component Name(s), Part Number(s), Revision(s), QAP Title and Revisions(s), Lot Numbers or serial numbers and manufacturer place holders
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Purchase Order Number
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	FAAT Plan Revision and Description of Change
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	QAP Characteristic, description, and numbering by Part Number- Critical, Major, Minor
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Identify data to be provided as Attribute or Variable
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Shall have data recording place holders for each characteristic for the total quantity of FAAT parts required.

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Table 1: FAAT PLAN & FAAT REPORT DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS	
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	MSE/AIE Gage by characteristic (The term Gage is not acceptable. The generic gage name shall be specified by the AIE/MSE or AAIE submitted for approval.)
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	QAP Description of characteristic- defined as per QAP
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Dimensional or Specification feature and tolerance
FAAT Plan & FAAT Report	Witness Record – defining attendees Company or Organization Name, Title, Signature and Date of FAAT
FAAT Plan	FAAT Plan Change Record defining purpose and date of plan revision changes
FAAT Plan	The USG Approved FAAT Plan shall be the data collection document used during the FAAT and for the FAAT Report. <i>It is highly recommended the FAAT Plan document has the ability to set conditional formatting for dimension(s) that will have variable data recorded. The conditional formatting setting can be used to set characteristics with min. and max. tolerances to flag out of tolerance conditions when measured in the plan, by turning the dimension red. This prevents manual data entry error (decimal point in the wrong position) or to identify truly discrepant conditions.</i>
FAAT Report	Lot number or Serial numbers under test
FAAT Report	The subcontractor shall define the summary of the FAAT and acceptance or rejection. Contents of the FAAT Report shall provide objective quality evidence (OQE) of achieving the requirements defined. The OQE shall consist of using tables, graphs, charts, Test data, all CMTRs, COC, COA, raw material certification mechanical or chemical analysis, prior certifications of compliance, RFV's, and Test reports that comprise of the component or assemblies. The defined documentation plus the completed FAAT Plan shall compromise of the FAAT Report.
FAAT Report	A statement defining the final results of the FAAT as acceptable or defining issues found during the FAAT and follow-up actions to be conducted.
FAAT Report	Witness record signed by all who witnessed the FAAT.

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2.7 FAAT READINESS REVIEW

A FAAT Readiness Review shall be conducted 21 calendar days prior to FAAT, this meeting shall be organized and led by the supplier. Prior to the FAAT, the subcontractor shall ensure the following have occurred:

- FAAT Plan approved by USG as referenced in QCD S11-2
- Pre-FAAT Dates defined as referenced in QCD S11-5
- FAAT Dates defined as referenced in QCD S11-5
- AAIE/AIE or MSE Plan has been approved by USG as referenced in QCD S8-1 or S9-1
- Sample ADC Approved by USG (as applicable) as referenced in QCD S13-1
- All available Material Certifications and Test Reports submitted to GD-OTS for review as referenced in QCD S11-4
- FAAT Lot numbering ("A" Lots) -MIL-STD-1168

2.8 CONDUCTING THE FAAT

The Contractor shall have available the USG approved FAAT Plan, USG approved MSE or AAIE/AIE Plan, drawings, specifications, QAP, and Process Work Instructions available for review at the time of FAAT.

The contractor shall provide all Certified Material Test Reports, Lab Test Reports, ballistic or static fire test results, and RFV's shall be made available during FAAT.

AAIE procedures and MSE documents previously approved by the USG shall be available and ready at time of conducting the FAAT.

The subcontractor shall record all variable data from the FAAT Components and define Pass or Fail for attribute data recorded on the FAAT Report.

Upon Completion of FAAT, all representatives are to sign the Witness Record. FAAT Report shall be submitted in accordance with S11-3 listed below.

The subcontractor's FAAT report is due even if the FAAT was unsuccessful or if a portion of the FAAT must be repeated. If a portion of the FAAT must be repeated, all requirements within this Quality Clause Document shall apply for the development and execution of a limited FAAT (LFAAT). The LFAAT plan and report shall contain only the characteristics which are to be reinspected.

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3.0 QUALITY CLAUSE DELIVERABLES (QCD)

Microsoft Office or PDF formats are preferred. All subcontractor data submittals shall be in English. These data items shall be submitted to GD-OTS in accordance with the QCD as indicated below. The method of submission to GD-OTS St. Petersburg is specified in the General Supplier Quality Clause "S1" **Section 3.0 Subcontractor Data Submission Instructions**. Unless otherwise agreed upon, deliverables required within this QCD contain CUI and must be marked and transmitted in accordance with DoDI 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)."

NO.	TITLE	CUI	GD-OTS APPROVAL REQUIRED	SUBMITTAL TIMING/FREQUENCY
S11-1	FAAT Exception or Waiver	Yes	Yes	Unless otherwise directed in the Subcontract/PO or Special Instructions document provided by GD-OTS; QCD is due 90 (CONUS) or 180 (OCONUS) calendar days prior to production or FAAT, whichever comes first.
S11-2	FAAT Plan	Yes	Yes	Unless otherwise directed in the Subcontract/PO or Special Instructions document provided by GD-OTS; QCD is due 60 (CONUS) or 150 (OCONUS) calendar days prior to production, FAAT, or Physical Configuration Audit (PCA), whichever comes first.
S11-3	FAAT Report	Yes	Yes	Unless otherwise directed in the Subcontract/PO or Special Instructions document provided by GD-OTS; QCD is due 7 calendar days after completion of FAAT.
S11-4	FAAT Readiness Review and Material Certifications and Test Reports	Yes	Yes	Unless otherwise directed in the Subcontract/PO or Special Instructions document provided by GD-OTS; QCD is due 21 calendar days prior to FAAT.
S11-5	Pre-FAAT & FAAT Notification Dates	Yes	Yes	Unless otherwise directed in the Subcontract/PO or Special Instructions document provided by GD-OTS; QCD is due through e-mail 30 (CONUS) or 100 (OCONUS) calendar days prior to Pre-FAAT and FAAT

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4.0 REVISION HISTORY

REV	DATE	CHANGE
0	06/09/2023	Initial Release
1	01/11/2024	CUI and clause updates
2	08/04/2024	Update to 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8
3	10/14/2025	Remove the Quality Clause website link in Section 3.0