

PRODUCTION TESTING

Production Testing Contracts

- I. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.** This Subsection outlines policy guidance for production testing of proposed and/or approved specifications. Production testing contracts are pertinent to the respective Contracting Officer and Quality Assurance Representative; the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center (SBCCOM); and the Group Component and Individual Component Teams (DLA TROOP SUPPORT-FTRA/FTRC) *
- II. **DEFINITION** Production Testing, under contract, tests the adequacy and practicability of specifications of new or technically improved items to assure the specification requirements allow for quantity or mass production of quality items, within economic production practices that must also be unrestrictive to competition. These tests should be conducted prior to large-scale acquisition.
- III. **POLICY** Production testing requirements shall be detailed in the contract.
- IV. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**
 - A. The inspection assignment shall include special instructions to the inspection unit, together with copies of the specification and contract.
 - B. The instructions and specifications should be thoroughly reviewed by all inspection personnel who will be involved with actual inspection of the item.
 - C. Production testing contracts shall be administered by the Contracting Officer.
 - D. The Observation Team shall consist, as a minimum, of the Contracting Officer or designated representative, who shall act as the Team Leader for the specific contract, a representative from Natick, and a Quality Assurance representative of the procuring activity. The Team may also include representatives from the Army, Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE); the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC), and/or the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps (VETCOM). The team: *

1. Shall not perform the actual inspection, but shall offer advice as needed.
 2. Shall evaluate the capability of industry to produce the item.
 3. Shall determine the adequacy of the specification for inspection purposes, including excessive or insufficient inspection requirements.
 4. Has authority to interpret specific requirements of the contract or specification, and make changes where ambiguities exist or revisions to specifications are required because of production capabilities.
 5. Has authority to arrange for necessary waivers or changes to specific contract requirements in conjunction with a review by U.S. Army Natick and the user (Military Services) approval.
 6. Shall determine whether requirements and quality assurance provisions of the specification are sufficiently detailed to acquire product consistent with the desired quality characteristics.
 7. Shall evaluate adequacy of packaging and packing requirements of the specification.
- E. Close cooperation shall be exercised among the Contracting Officer, other members of the Observation Team and inspection personnel involved with actual inspection of the item.
- F. Laboratory testing of the production test item shall be accomplished by the same Government laboratory and/or commercial laboratory responsible for acquisition testing on the item under normal contract production requirements.
- G. The Team shall complete a joint Report of Travel, which shall be provided to all offices having responsibility in the acquisition and inspection of the item.
- PROCESSING REPORTS.**
- V. A. Reports of inspection problems, shipments, etc., shall be accomplished in the normal manner.
- B. All special instructions and reporting requirements shall be included, with samples, if appropriate, to correct any specification requirement(s) and/or inspection issue(s) that may arise during the production testing.

This Subsection supersedes Subsection 206.1, dated April 2010

*** Denotes changes**