

DATA ACQUISITION STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE

Premise:

The aerospace industry is reliant on an outmoded paper-based information system. There are no standards associated with this process.

The industry must move to a data-based process consistent with the requirements of the [DoD] Defense Acquisition Guidebook, CH. 5, regarding data management and integrated supply chain management, details of which may be found here: http://www.aerospac.com/aerospac_files/Page715.htm.

Current Process:

Suppliers currently print data from their (computerized) databases onto paper documents and provide these documents to their customers, who visually approve them for compliance, then file them for future reference.

Proposed Process:

Suppliers will provide electronic documentation and data directly to their customers via industry-accepted methodology. Scanned documents shall be searchable through industry-defined criteria.

Methodology:

Suppliers of raw materials and critical safety items (CSI) will be providing electronic documentation and data via standardized XML schema, consistent with customer requirements.

Customer Use:

Customers will use their own databases and programs to analyze the data for acceptance.

Benefits:

Reduced costs through elimination of paper and manual approval.
Reduced error factor due to programmed data analysis.
Reduced flow time due to automated process.
Improved safety and reliability through elimination of human error.
Elimination of counterfeiting.

Design and Implementation Plan:

A "Data Standardization Committee" shall be formed to establish data standards for transmission of required information. Representatives from designated industry groups, such as OEM's, Subcontractors, and Raw Material Suppliers shall determine the appropriate schema for the industry.