



AF-FAQ-9400-001

Interpretation Questions and Boundary Cases

Space / Aviation / Defense

FIRST EDITION

AF 9400 SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Document identity and use

FIRST EDITION MANUSCRIPT - Prepared for Aerospace Federation review

Field	Controlled identity
Document	AF-FAQ-9400-001 - Interpretation Questions and Boundary Cases
Parent standard	AF 9400 - Aerospace Manufacturing, Materials & Supply Chain
Edition / language	FIRST EDITION / English master text
Family	Companions
Primary source anchors	0-36; informative Annex S
Suggested local owner	Technical authority
Authority	Publisher approval and effective date are not assigned. Local use requires authorized adoption and completed parameters.

Use with the main standard

This document implements the identified AF 9400 clauses and annexes. Read the complete applicable requirements in the main standard. The source anchors are navigation references; a template does not replace technical judgement, evidence, permission or eligible approval.

AF-ML-9400-001 lists the complete supporting set. AF-CM-9400-001 maps the main clauses and annexes to working documents. AF-TP-9400-001 establishes the common local parameter baseline; add the relevant discipline profiles.

Record control

Identify the object, configuration, record owner and dates. Reference attachments by stable identifier and version. Keep superseded evidence and decisions traceable. Use the approved local retention, access and authentication arrangements. No process recipe, numerical limit, interval or acceptance value is assigned by a blank template.

Implementation model: Translate the stated responsibilities and controls into the actual organization. Informative examples remain explanatory; use approved programme-specific values for operational decisions.

1 Use of this companion

This companion explains recurrent interpretation questions. Answers do not waive applicable requirements or supply missing programme parameters. Read the exact source clause before making a decision.

2 Questions and decision boundaries

Status: Informative. Answers explain the proposed standard and do not supply product-specific approvals or numerical parameters.

1 Does an approved supplier make every delivery acceptable?

No. Approval has a defined scope, site and conditions. Each delivered population still requires the applicable identity, condition, evidence and acceptance controls. An approved supplier can deliver a nonconforming or wrongly configured item.

2 Can a material trade name establish equivalence?

No. Product form, condition, source, processing, orientation and intended application may affect properties. An eligible material and design assessment is required for a substitution; a commercial cross-reference alone is insufficient.

3 Does final inspection replace process qualification?

No. Some process effects cannot be fully demonstrated by the selected final inspection. Qualification and actual essential-variable control remain necessary where required. A favorable dimension does not resolve a possible latent material deficiency.

4 Can returning material to cold storage reset out-time?

Only if an approved technical basis explicitly permits the relevant reset. The default is to preserve actual accumulated exposure under the applicable rule. Stock transactions cannot create material life.

5 Does zero observed defects prove a defect-free lot?

No. The conclusion depends on the population, sampling, detection capability and statistical model. A zero-defect sample may still have a substantial probability of occurring in a defective lot. The sampling risk shall be understood before acceptance.

6 Is a high Cpk sufficient for product release?

No. The estimate has a defined population, time period, method and assumptions. It does not close an individual failed requirement or replace required process, genealogy, inspection and release evidence.

7 Can a concession turn FAIL into PASS?

A concession can permit a specific departure where the necessary authority exists. It does not change the original observation or establish that the original requirement was met. The permitted scope and remaining restrictions shall remain explicit.

8 Does a first article approve all future production?

No. It supports a stated representative route and configuration. Changed essential variables, sources, tooling, software or other conditions can require additional demonstration. Routine output still needs its applicable controls and release evidence.

9 Are two purchasing sources necessarily independent?

No. They may share an upstream plant, material, process, tooling or transport bottleneck. Resilience shall be assessed through actual dependencies and technically eligible recovery routes.

10 Can recycled material be used automatically because it is sustainable?

No. Technical suitability, source approval, process qualification and acceptance remain necessary. Environmental attributes and aerospace material conformity are separate claims with different evidence.

11 Does a restored database mean production can resume?

Not automatically. Identity, genealogy, quantities, configuration, restrictions and decision states must be reconciled. File availability alone does not establish semantic recovery or product conformity.

12 Does this document set confer AF recognition or operating permission?

No. Publication, local adoption, verified implementation, product release, recognition and operating permission are separate decisions. This set provides proposed requirements and implementation models; it does not invent any of those approvals.