

# WEAPON QUALITY ASSURANCE (WQA) BULLETIN

## NNSA WEAPON QUALITY DIVISION (NA-121.3)

November 2023 (Supersedes bulletin dated August 2022)



### QUALITY ISSUE RESOLUTION TEAM (QIRT)

#### Purpose:

The purpose of the Quality Issue Resolution Team (QIRT) is to communicate at the highest levels of organizational Quality, to establish a common sense of urgency, and to expedite engagement of NNSA and Management and Operating Contractor (M&O) quality leadership on an emerging quality issue, thus facilitating actions at affected sites necessary to avoid potential delays to high-impact mission deliverables.

#### Responsibilities:

The QIRT action will typically be initiated by the Federal Program Manager (FPM) when made aware by the Product Realization Team (PRT) that there exists an emerging potentially significant quality issue where there is not a high confidence plan in place to disposition the associated hardware.

***The Director NA-121.3, Weapon Quality Division, and the FPM will confer and agree to execute the QIRT jointly.***

#### Leadership:

The Director, HQ Weapons Quality Division, will co-lead, with the affected FPM, to call together the affected Federal site quality leadership and the respective M&O quality leadership to gain a baseline understanding of the emerging issue from a perspective of the Quality Policy, Product Definition, Schedule Impacts, and other technical aspects of the issue. This meeting should be called within 72 hours of notification of the Emerging Issue. The persons invited to this meeting are considered the Quality Issue Resolution Team (QIRT).

#### Participation:

All affected sites will provide needed Federal and M&O leadership participation to effectively engage site resources in providing potential solutions.

The QIRT will facilitate site-specific quality management involvement to expedite a Product Realization Team (PRT) executable plan to avoid mission impact.

Issue-specific technical information and associated recovery options will be provided by the associated PRT, involved M&O system's organizations, and the Field/Production Office (F/PO).

The QIRT tracks issues as long as necessary to ensure high confidence in execution. This process is tactical and has a short-term recovery focus and, therefore, is not associated with the Issue Resolution Group process outlined in T082. While this effort will likely impact issuance and closure of Nonconforming Material Reports (NMRs), NMR situations are not the only triggers required for QIRT execution.

The intent of the QIRT is to develop plans within current *NNSA Weapon Quality Policy* requirements. However, unique situations may call for deviations from policy, and in those situations the QIRT co-leaders will communicate and facilitate discussions with NA-12 leadership for needed approvals.

Primary points of contact from the quality organizations below should be senior-level representatives for each listed organization. Primary backups have also been identified and will be included on distribution emails to ensure timely response. As primary and backup points of contact change, each organization should provide updates to NA-121.3.

#### **Quality Issue Resolution Team Members:**

- NA-122/125: Federal Program Manager, Co-Lead
- NA-121.3: Weapon Quality Director, Co-Lead
- NA-KC Assistant Manager for Quality
- NA-LA Assistant Manager for Quality
- NA-LL Assistant Manager for Quality
- NPO Pantex Assistant Manager for Quality
- NPO Y-12 Assistant Manager for Quality
- NA-SN Assistant Manager for Quality
- Pantex Quality
- KCNSC FM&T Quality Make Parts and Buy Parts
- LANL-DA Quality
- LANL-PA Quality
- LLNL-DA Quality
- SNL-DA Quality
- SNL-PA Quality
- SRS Quality
- Y-12 Quality

Please direct any questions concerning this bulletin to [wqa@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:wqa@nnsa.doe.gov).

