



Quality Assurance Directorate

Michael E. Shields Jr., Executive Director

Quality Technical Information Paper (Q-Tip)

NUMBER: 16-006

DATE: April 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Recommended process to permit acceptance of end items containing electrical connectors identified by DLA as not meeting Qualified Product List (QPL) Requirements.

POC:

Background: This Q-TIP is to provide the DCMA Quality Assurance Community guidance on handling the FSC 5935 QPL electrical connector issue. These connectors are common to many weapon systems. DCMA cannot accept product containing these connectors without Program Office / Buying Command approval. Outlined below is one potential path forward.

Several GIDEPs were issued as the result of DLA audits of suppliers of QPL electrical connectors (FSC 5935) and the 'stop ship' notice DLA issued. Per DLA, the supplier certification to the QPL is the primary issue. Product shipped by suppliers can be deemed to be non-compliant to the QPL and specification due to design changes, failure to perform required testing and/or unapproved outsourcing of components.

References:

1. GIDEP Notices (CVS-P-16-01, EA-P-15-01A, NX4-P-16-02 and PE2-P-16-02)
2. DLA e-mail (attached)
3. DD Form 1694, Request for Variance, (embedded)
4. DI-SESS-80640D, Request for Variance, (embedded)

Details:

1. Impacted components:
 - a. MIL-DTL-22992, 26482, 26500, 27599, 38999, 55302, 83513 and 83723; within FSC 5935.
 - b. Suppliers: Amphenol CAGE 77820, ITT Canon CAGE 71468, Winchester Electronics CAGE 91836, Hypertronics CAGE 50541
2. DCMA cannot knowingly accept end product that contains suspect non-conforming components (e.g. electrical connectors) unless the customer/program office waives the requirement.



Quality Assurance Directorate

Michael E. Shields Jr., Executive Director

3. In light of the multiple uses and varying criticality in the use of the electrical connectors, DCMA is not able to categorize non-conformances as Minor or Major.
4. In order for DCMA to accept product containing these components, the contractor must have a variance from his customer.
5. If the contractor desires to request a variance from their customer, DCMA can suggest the following process for a contractor to obtain a contract-by-contract variance for product impacted by the electrical connector issue:
 - a. Document the already built units that contain the electrical connectors in terms of longevity in service, extent of failures (or lack of) of the electrical connectors, etc.
 - b. Describe the mitigation approach being taken with units in process (visual inspection, mechanical and electrical tests, etc.) that will consume electrical connectors already in inventory.
 - c. Describe the future plans to preclude recurrence of issues (revisions to purchase orders, confirm QPL status of connectors, develop alternative sources of supply, etc.).
 - d. Refer to the DLA letter (attached) in a variance request, citing:
 - i. DLA assessment of the risk (low to moderate), based upon historical data;
 - ii. Path forward (testing, requalification, domestic production);
 - iii. DLA recommendation for PM, PEO and engineering independent assessment to support the accept/reject use decision;
 - iv. DLA planned resolution by end of fiscal year 2016.
 - e. Please refer to DD Form 1694, Request for Variance or Data Item Description, DI-SESS-80640D, Request for Variance, for further guidance.
6. As additional details become available through DLA or DPAP that may impact DCMA execution, updates will be provided.

Conclusions/Recommendations/Actions:

Use this Q-TIP as a guide to resolving acceptance of product questions that are asked by contractors who are impacted by the electrical connector issue.

Refer higher complexity questions associated with this issue to



Quality Assurance Directorate

Michael E. Shields Jr., Executive Director

DLA E-mail

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 10:15 AM

To:

Cc:

Subject: INFO - Qualified Parts List discrepancies (electronic connectors)

Senior Leaders,

I want to make you aware of a situation that has connections to many of your major end items/weapon systems. Sorry for the length of the e-mail but I wanted to provide enough details to enable you to cascade information to your organizations, PMs, PEOs and Engineering communities. Your Service Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) points of contact will be getting push notices so not necessary for you to be the action officer on the situation but rather provided for oversight.

Recently, DLA placed Amphenol Aerospace on a "Stop Shipment" order for not meeting essential requirements in specifications. Specifically, for up to 10 years, Amphenol has supplied parts (mainly electronic connectors with no apparent potential for malware related exposure) with unapproved outsourced components under the Qualified Parts List "label" to DLA, DOD and Commercial customers. To scope the issue, Amphenol does about \$5.5B in global sales annually of which ~\$5M is with DLA, ~\$600M with military customers, and the remaining ~\$4.8B with commercial customers.

In addition to obtaining components from unapproved facilities, Amphenol is delinquent on a number of required tests to confirm their parts meet required specifications. The Military Specifications in question are: MIL-DTL-22992, 26482, 26500, 27599, 38999, 55302, 83513 and 83723. To be clear, the component parts in question are sub components that make up the connector assembly, not the entire connector assembly. Amphenol is an approved source for 442K part numbers under these specifications and is the sole source on 118K part numbers. These parts or subcomponents all fall in the 5935 Federal Stock Class and are in a wide array of major end items (i.e. in most military aircraft and missiles, etc.).



Quality Assurance Directorate

Michael E. Shields Jr., Executive Director

As of right now, we still have a "stop shipment" order on the company and the current inventory has been frozen while we evaluate the situation. We are performing lot test sampling on our current stock and will make a risk based assessment from the findings. We have a planned way ahead to minimize readiness risk by allowing Amphenol to ship sole source items for a short period with increased surveillance on lot testing. The overall "stop shipment" order will be released incrementally, spec by spec, as the company completes the necessary corrective actions, likely through the end of the fiscal year.

Many of the system PMs and PEOs are aware of the stop ship order and we have been taking calls from many of them. Our near-term communication plan is to direct the company to publish a Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) notice to our industry and Military partners. The GIDEPs have already been submitted to the system and will be published and pushed to the network within the next day or so. These GIDEPs will provide necessary information for you to perform a risk assessment to determine the best course of action on your weapon systems. Given that non-conforming parts have been in the system for up to 10 years (with little to no PQDR activity), and lot testing has been performed with no issues, suggests this is most likely a low to moderate risk scenario from an operational perspective. However, I would ask that you ensure your PMs, PEOs, and engineering communities are made aware of the situation so they can make their own independent assessment.

Lastly, we are also looking into our procedures for potential breakdowns in our Qualified Parts List certification processes. When complete, we will work with the collective Departmental Standardization Offices to communicate and institutionalize any process improvements.

If your teams need further information, the POC for this effort is
An alternate contact point is the
In addition, there is a national GIDEP
helpdesk that is also available for questions on the notifications,
951-898-3207.

Standing by for questions and I will provide you further updates as the situation warrants.

v/r,

Director
Defense Logistics Agency



Quality Assurance Directorate

Michael E. Shields Jr., Executive Director