

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR INTERVIEW



ABOUT

NADCAP AUDITOR SINCE **2004**

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT IN **AQS, CP, HT, NM, SE**

BASED IN **SINGAPORE**

FAVOURITE PLACE TO VISIT **JAPAN**

“ You decide when
and where you
want to work

”

What attracted you to Nadcap auditing in the first place?

Nadcap auditing was a logical progression path for me. Back in 1975, when a US multi-national prime set up their aerospace manufacturing operations in Singapore, I was fortunate to get on-board and worked the various special processes.

In early 2000, with the implementation of low cost manufacturing initiatives, manufacturing operations were expanded abroad, and I was tasked with the in-country technical support.

Having completed a 3-year overseas assignment, and by then with 29 years working for the same company, I made the decision to move on and joined PRI as a Nadcap auditor in 2004.

What has surprised you about being a Nadcap auditor?

The underlying fundamentals of the special processes remain basically the same, but many new processing technologies have evolved. Initially, you used to see suppliers with a fairly primitive set-up, but that has changed drastically and it's much more sophisticated now.

What's the best thing about being a Nadcap auditor?

When I was working for a US aerospace company, I only got involved with the suppliers who were doing work for this one prime. As a Nadcap auditor, you get a much broader perspective and it really widens your horizons, as you are working globally and interacting with many suppliers, getting to see and learn new things at the same time.

In addition, as a contract auditor, you can plan ahead and decide when and where you want to work and to an extent, you are in control your own time and schedule.

What would be the key piece of advice you'd give to companies preparing for a Nadcap audit?

I cannot stress enough how important it is to get to know your customers. The better relationship you have with them, the better able you are to interact and work closely with them. That will be key to having a successful audit.

I also recommend that you engage with the Nadcap program - it's more than just an audit! Participate in Nadcap meetings at least once per year to learn about important technical developments and to network; attend the free technical symposia that take place in your region for additional information; and consider eQuaLearn training on Nadcap audit preparation or other relevant technical topics.

With regard to the audit itself, my best suggestion is to start your preparation early, and when you think you're prepared, prepare again and prepare some more! Diligently perform in-depth self-audits and be strict with yourself.

In your experience, describe the impact of Nadcap on the companies you have audited?

Suppliers that have gone through the Nadcap process for a number of years have a high level of confidence in the processes they perform. Nadcap accreditation sets a benchmark and levelled the playing field for all suppliers involved in aerospace manufacturing; the industry recognizes that it's not just a process audit but a very detailed technical assessment.

Please describe a typical audit day.

I travel to the audit site, and conduct the opening meeting. This consists of an introduction and getting to know the key personnel involved. It is often clear at this point how engaged and prepared the company is for the audit. We discuss the plan for the audit and confirm the schedules. Together, we also verify and sign off the audit scope. I review the relevant documents and witness the required job audits. At the end of each day, we review what we have covered and discuss what was right and what was not (i.e. any nonconformances found). We then talk about what needs to be done the next day so that we have the same expectations. I then travel back to my hotel, where I spend part of the evening on eAuditNet reviewing the day's work and preparing for the following day.

