NADCAP® SUPPLIER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

THE NADCAP® PROGRAM

The Nadcap program is an industry-managed approach to conformity assessment that brings together technical experts from the aviation, defense, and space industries to establish requirements for accreditation, accredit suppliers and define operational program requirements. The program is universally recognized as the place for critical process experts to work together, putting quality above competition.

Managed by industry representatives for the benefit of all, the Nadcap program adds value to its stakeholders through its integral role of assuring product quality while reducing costs. In an industry where quality is mission-critical, we are proud to work closely with the best of the best for our mutual goal: safety throughout the aviation, defense, and space industries.

This results in a standardized approach to quality assurance and a reduction in redundant auditing because prime contractors, suppliers and government representatives have joined forces to develop a program that:

- **Establishes** stringent audit criteria that satisfy the requirements of all participants

- **Replaces** redundant auditing of Suppliers with one approved audit created by a consensus decision-making process in cooperation with members from the user community

- **Conducts** more in-depth, technically superior critical process audits

- **Reduces** costs through improved standardization

- **Uses** technically expert auditors to assure process familiarity

- **Provides** more frequent audits for primes, assuring quality standards are met

THE HISTORY OF NADCAP®

In November 1989, the US Department of Defense/ Industry Equal Partners Conference recommended a consensus solution to the duplication of Supplier process control system audits. In 1990, the National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP) was established by key aerospace industry and US government representatives, administered by the not-for profit Performance Review Institute℠ (PRI).

Prior to 1990, the major aerospace companies were auditing their own Suppliers for technical proficiency in areas such as non-destructive testing, welding, and heat treating. This meant a significant workload for the Subscribers, duplicate audits for the Suppliers, and auditors were often forced to become generalists to accommodate the workload.

As Nadcap grew internationally, it changed from an acronym (NADCAP) to a brand name (Nadcap). Today, Nadcap represents an unprecedented, cooperative industry effort to improve quality while reducing costs throughout the aviation, defense, and space industries.

Over the years, the Nadcap program has become an integral part of quality assurance throughout the global aerospace industry. Today, there are nearly 60 subscribing OEMs who participate in the program. More than 5,000 supplier audits are scheduled per year. To-date, approximately 4,700 Suppliers have earned in excess of 8,000 accreditations, while the program continues to expand and grow.
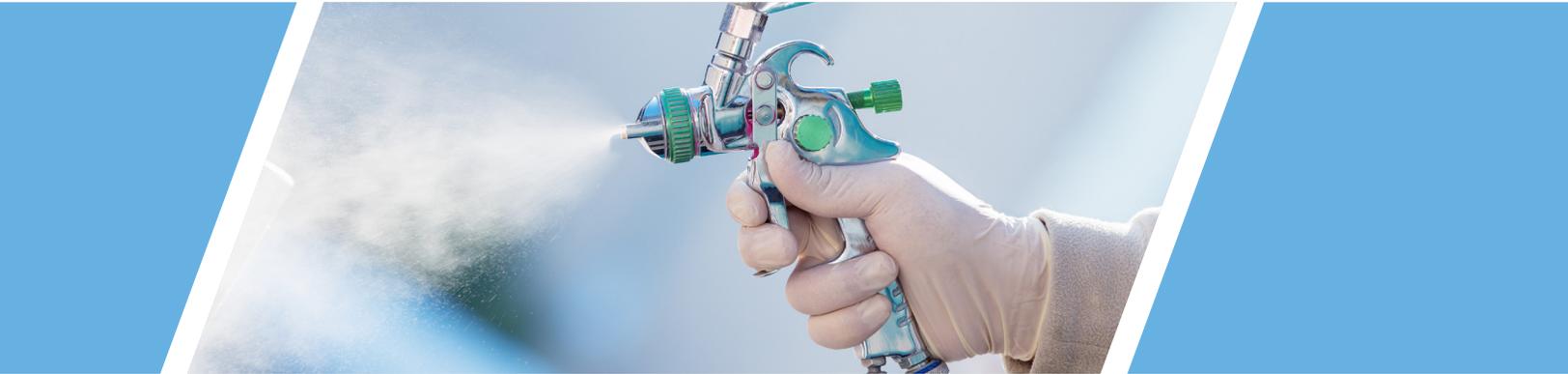
SUPPLIERS BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM

Only the best companies in the global aviation, defense, and space supply-chain achieve Nadcap® accreditation. Nadcap audits are a rigorous technical assessment of compliance to customer requirements and industry standards, conducted by industry experts. By becoming accredited, Suppliers will:

1. **Collaborate with Primes and peer suppliers to develop industry consensus audit criteria**

   Suppliers are a valued and integral part of the Nadcap program as they provide additional guidance and input from the auditee perspective. Suppliers may participate in Task Groups to assist in the development of audit criteria.

2. **Save time and money by eliminating redundant audits**

   Program subscribers have joined together to reduce the number of required supplier audits by creating industry consensus audit criteria.

3. **Realize better profits by increasing yields and decreasing scrap rates**

   According to the 2019 Performance Review Institute℠ Supplier Satisfaction Survey, 70 percent of Suppliers report that participating in the Nadcap program has helped to decrease their product defect rates.

4. **Demonstrate to Primes your commitment to absolute quality and safety**

   Your customers (and future customers) will be impressed by your achievement. When they learn of your accreditation(s), your company will be positioned in the marketplace as one that is committed to delivering the highest standards.

5. **Generate opportunities for new business**

   Access to new markets and winning new business is crucial to the growth of any company. Nadcap critical process accreditation can support these efforts for companies that are either new to the aerospace industry or already well established.

85% OF SUPPLIERS CLAIM IMPROVED CUSTOMER SATISFACTION CAN BE CREDITED TO PARTICIPATION IN THE NADCAP® PROGRAM.*

Performance Review Institute℠ Supplier Satisfaction Survey, 2019

**Performance Review Institute℠ currently offers Nadcap®
accreditation in the following areas:**

Additive Manufacturing	Fluid Distribution Systems
Aero Structure Assembly	Heat Treating
Aerospace Quality System	Materials Testing Laboratories
Chemical Processing	Measurement & Inspection
Coatings	Metallic Materials Manufacturing
Composites	NonDestructive Testing
Conventional Machining as a Special Process	Non Metallic Materials Manufacturing
Elastomer Seals	Non Metallic Materials Testing
Electronics – Cable and Harness Assemblies	Nonconventional Machining
Electronics – Printed Board Assemblies	Sealants
Electronics – Printed Boards	Surface Enhancement
First Article Inspection	Welding

SUPPLIERS HAVE A VOICE.

Suppliers are a valued and integral part of the Nadcap® program as they provide additional guidance from the auditee perspective. To ensure their voices are heard, the program stakeholders meet three times a year. At these events, Suppliers have the opportunity to meet with the subscribing OEMs, and participate in Task Group breakout sessions.

There is a Task Group that represents each type of critical process accreditation of the Nadcap program. Each Task Group is comprised of subscribing OEM members who are technical experts. They develop audit criteria, approve Task Group Auditors, and define Task Group requirements. Suppliers are encouraged to attend and contribute to these productive Task Group meetings. Collaboration is key to the success of the Nadcap program.
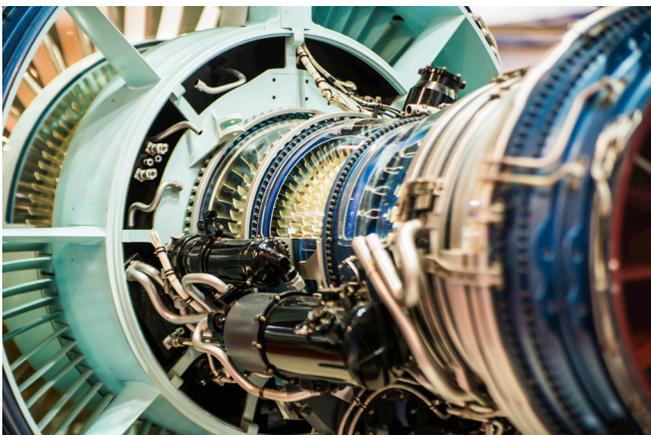
WE'LL GUIDE YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

The Nadcap® Audit Process

The audit process typically begins with a notification from a prime manufacturer to the Supplier that they should attain accreditation, although some companies choose to pursue Nadcap accreditation without prompting from their customer.

The supplier then registers online in PRI EAN℠, the platform developed by the Performance Review Institute℠ (PRI) that administers the Nadcap program, to schedule an audit. The PRI EAN platform is the core of the program, and source of all information regarding Nadcap Accreditation and audit details. Audits are booked 6-9 months in advance, allowing time to prepare. Preparation begins with a thorough review of the audit criteria and conducting a required self-audit to identify and correct any non-conformances prior to the Nadcap audit.

The assigned program-approved auditor will contact the auditee to set an opening meeting with all key stakeholders. At this meeting, the full audit scope will be reviewed with the team. The auditor then conducts the audit and will close each day with a review of any findings. At the end of the audit, a final review is presented to all key supplier stakeholders and the accreditation process is discussed.
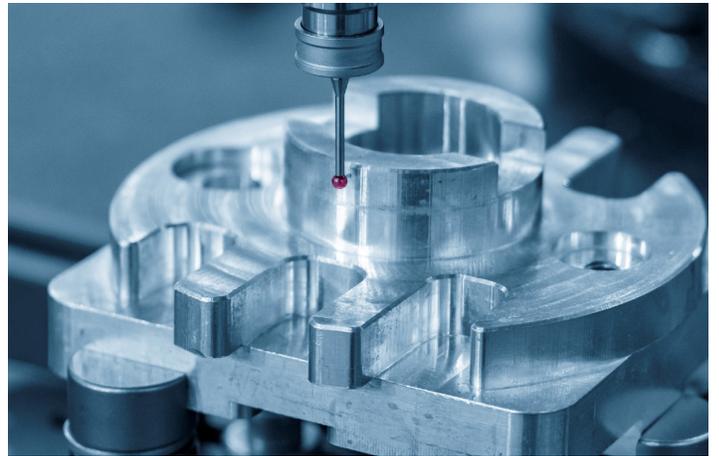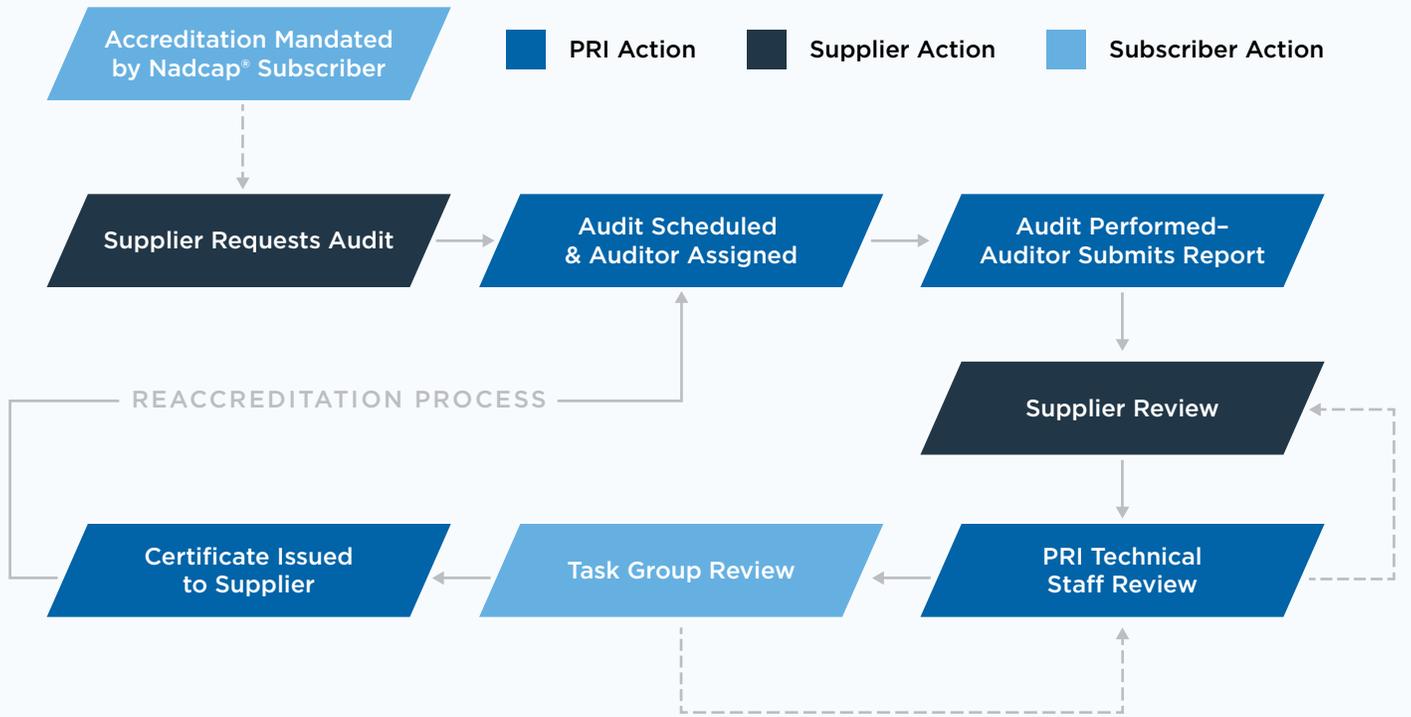
94% OF SUPPLIERS FEEL THAT NADCAP ACCREDITATION HAS ADDED VALUE TO THEIR ORGANIZATION.*

Performance Review Institute Supplier Satisfaction Survey, 2019

After the auditor submits a report, the Supplier has an opportunity to respond to any non-conformances identified, and responses are reviewed by a Performance Review Institute Staff Engineer who is specialized in the specific critical manufacturing process. A Staff Engineer acts as a single point of contact between PRI and Suppliers, clarifying checklist questions, audit responses and anything else associated with the Nadcap special processes. They will guide the Supplier through the accreditation process to ensure successful completion.

Based upon the expectations of the participating Subscribers, when the Staff Engineer is satisfied that the root cause of all non-conformances has been identified and sustaining corrective action has been implemented, the entire report is submitted to the special process Task Group. This body of Nadcap Subscriber OEMs, who are also experts in the special process that has been audited, review the Staff Engineer's recommendations, and approve the audit for certification.

Process Flow Diagram

Accreditation Mandated by Nadcap® Subscriber

Legend:
- **PRI Action**
- **Supplier Action**
- **Subscriber Action**

Supplier Requests Audit → Audit Scheduled & Auditor Assigned → Audit Performed– Auditor Submits Report

Audit Performed– Auditor Submits Report → Supplier Review

Supplier Review → PRI Technical Staff Review

PRI Technical Staff Review → Task Group Review → Certificate Issued to Supplier

REACCREDITATION PROCESS

91% HAVE OBSERVED AN IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE NADCAP AUDITING PROCESS.*

Performance Review Institute Supplier Satisfaction Survey, 2019

TRAINING AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOU.

Nadcap® Supplier Support Committee (SSC)

The Nadcap Management Council, which is the governing body of the Nadcap Program, consists of subscribing OEMs and a Task Group representative supplier. This council formed the Supplier Support Committee to ensure that suppliers are heard, and their accreditation journey is successful. The SSC communicates about issues directly related to Suppliers to ensure mutual satisfaction and empowerment in the program.

Members of the SSC are active Nadcap accredited Suppliers who are willing to help new Suppliers through the accreditation process, as well as assisting experienced Suppliers to establish, maintain and improve their accredited processes. It is the voice of the Supplier community within the Nadcap program.

Resources developed by the SSC include:

- *New Suppler Welcome Pack*, an in-depth introduction to the program

- *Nadcap Handbook for Auditees*, a step-by-step guide to help you navigate the auditing and accreditation process

- *Business Development Tool*, for promoting your accreditations

- *Mentoring Program*, for non-technical program assistance

For more information, contact NadcapSSC@p-r-i.org.

PRI Training

p-r-i.org/pri-training

If you desire training to prepare for a Nadcap® audit or for professional development, Performance Review Institute℠ offers quality-related and technical training all over the world in multiple languages to industries where safety and quality are shared values. Public sessions, webinars, onsite training, and hosted training with four core tracks of learning are offered: Quality, Nadcap Audit Criteria Review, Nadcap Audit Preparation, and Special Processes.

eAuditNet

www.eauditnet.com

PRI EAN℠ is the online platform utilized by the Nadcap program. Program requirements, operating procedures, audit criteria, handbooks, pricing sheet, user guides, and task group specific documents can be accessed here. Registration is free.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR COMPANY
CAN BEGIN THE NADCAP ACCREDITATION
JOURNEY TO ABSOLUTE QUALITY.

NadcapInfo@p-r-i.org

PRI
PERFORMANCE REVIEW INSTITUTE

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW INSTITUTE℠

The Performance Review Institute (PRI) is the world leader in facilitating collaborative supply chain oversight programs, quality management systems approvals and professional development in industries where safety and quality are shared values.

Established as a not-for-profit trade association in 1990, PRI serves customers globally through its offices in the USA, UK, China and Japan. Our work helps to improve product quality and safety while reducing costs and is aligned with the most technologically advanced companies and engineering efforts in the world.

PRI is trusted by stakeholders in critical industries globally to provide superior technical accreditations, management systems auditing, and professional development opportunities. Our people are acknowledged as the elite in their respective industries and are counted among the foremost technical experts in their field, based on level of education and technical experience.

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