

(This newsletter is being sent to BAE Systems, Electronic Systems, Suppliers)



August 2023

Greetings,

At BAE Systems, Electronic Systems, our missions of We Protect Those Who Protect Us and We Innovate for Those Who Move the World are central to everything we do. As one of our suppliers, you are an integral partner in helping us achieve these goals and we want to partner with you to assure first-time quality.

Because the products we build must meet the highest quality standards in order to perform reliably for our customers in some of the most extreme environments in the universe, this often comes with additional quality requirements that we have to pass on to our supply chain partners. We understand these requirements are greater than what you may be equipped to meet and want to help by providing tools and resources for success.

To this end, we have made a number of changes that better position us to support you through proactive engagement; there are several that will impact you directly. Throughout this newsletter, you will see details on these improvements.

The parts you build are critical components of the products we provide to our customers and the quality of those parts matters. The Electronic Systems Team is here to help you succeed and if you are ever faced with a challenge, please reach out.

Regards,

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Contents:

- Upcoming changes:
 - [Supplier Quality org transitions to commodity focus](#)
 - [New Supplier Development Program launches](#)
 - [Coming soon: Partner2Win Scorecard changes](#)
- Continuous Improvement:

- [Improved Counterfeit Parts Prevention processes](#)
- [Change Management information flow](#)
- [Requirements flowdown reminders](#)
- [Special Processing overhaul](#)

Upcoming Changes

Supplier Quality org transitions to commodity focus

We have transitioned our Supplier Quality team to a commodities-focused organization built around expertise, collaboration, and partnership. To support this change, we have realigned our regional supplier quality engineers to the commodity in which they have the most expertise. As a result, you will most likely have a new BAE Systems Supplier Quality Engineer. We recently completed re-assignments and your new SQE will be in touch soon, if they have not already reached out to you.

New Supplier Development Program launches

A new, more comprehensive Supplier Development Program has been created in a collaboration between our Supplier Quality and Supplier Partnerships teams. This will be a mutually beneficial program that improves performance across key areas in meeting and sustaining the rigorous quality standards our customers expect. You can expect to hear more from this team in the near future on a variety of topics, including AS9145 (APQP/PPAP), Capacity and Delivery, Quality Management Systems, and Lean 6-Sigma.

Coming soon: Partner2Win Scorecard changes

There are changes coming to the Partner2Win (P2W) Scorecard. All of our suppliers will now be able to receive a performance scorecard. Scores will now be visible based on your business' locations—this is a change from the current report, which is only broken out by BAE Systems site. Additionally, the Quality metrics will now also include *Defects Per Parts Million*, *SCAR Issuance*, *SCAR Responsiveness (measured against a metric of 90 days to corrective action implementation)*, and *BAE Systems Factory Disruptions (impacts on our ability to deliver to our customers)*. More information on changes to the P2W Scorecard will be coming soon.

[Top](#)

Continuous Improvement

Improved Counterfeit Parts Prevention processes

Improvements to our Counterfeit Parts Prevention (CPP) program and processes are underway. Our dedication to continuously improve our capabilities in the prevention and detection of suspect counterfeit material is key to delivering mission capable products to our customers. Improvements include a newly revised CPP Board of cross-functional business representatives, whose mission is to deliver ES Business Level CPP Program guidance & governance to ensure compliant execution of CPP regulatory requirements. We continue to look to our supply chain partners to help identify CPP Risk Based policies and procedures that mitigate counterfeit material threats while minimizing business impacts.

Change Management Information Flow

Today, our standard contract terms and conditions require our suppliers to notify us of any changes. We are **improving our Change Management processes** to make it easier for our suppliers to communicate requests and notifications to us. Where we currently have a process in place for Supplier Variance Requests (SVRs), we will be developing separate workflows for Supplier Change Requests, Supplier Variance Notifications, and Supplier Change Notifications. This will allow us to better incorporate the good work and improvements we see throughout the supply base. Soon, you will see communications on how to process variance requests and change notifications of all types. This will allow us to respond to changes real-time and adjust accordingly.

Requirements Flowdown Reminders

As a reminder, **your current terms and conditions require that all suppliers flow down requirements to sub-tier providers** and submit notification to us around a variety of events, including but not limited to product and process design changes, equipment changes (new/replacement/movement), and facility and/or location changes. This includes flowing changes to drawings or hardware characteristics. Please engage us if you are having difficulties with flowing down requirements.

Special Processing overhaul

Our dedicated Special Process team is currently working to overhaul our approach to better align with industry standards, including updating our auditing and surveillance methodology.

A **Special Process** is a process where the resulting output cannot be verified by subsequent monitoring or measurement and, as a consequence, deficiencies become apparent only after the product is in use. Some examples include, but are not limited to: Plating, Painting, Heat Treat, Welding, Passivation, Brazing, Chem Film.

Requirements around Special Processes are flowed down on purchase orders/subcontracts through QA Codes 102 or 185. All special process suppliers, including sub-tiers, must be BAE or Nadcap approved. A list of Approved Special Process Suppliers is located on the [Electronic Systems Supplier Center](#).

[Top](#)