



Department of Defense

INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 4715.15
December 11, 2006

USD(AT&L)

SUBJECT: Environmental Quality Systems

- References:
- (a) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Ensuring the Quality of Information Disseminated to the Public by the Department of Defense," February 10, 2003
 - (b) DoD Directive 4715.1E, "Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health," March 19, 2005
 - (c) DoD 5025.1-M, "DoD Directives System Procedures," March 2003
 - (d) ANSI/ASQ E4-2004, "Quality Systems for Environmental Data and Technology Programs – Requirements with guidance for use"¹
 - (e) ISO/IEC 17025:1999, "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories," December 1999²
 - (f) Federal Register, Volume 67, page 8452, February 15, 2002

1. PURPOSE

This Instruction:

1.1. Establishes and implements policy for establishing environmental quality systems for DoD activities and programs involving the collection, management, and use of environmental data, in accordance with References (a) and (b).

1.2. Assigns responsibilities for implementing Reference (a) and provides for a DoD Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW).

1.3. Authorizes the publication of DoD 4715.RR-M-1 "Department of Defense Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories," DoD 4715.RR-M-2, "Uniform Federal Policy for Implementing Environmental Quality Systems," DoD 4715.RR-M-3 "Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans," and other issuances supporting this Instruction and consistent with Reference (c).

¹ Published by the American National Standards Institute, www.ansi.org

² Published by the International Organization for Standardization, www.iso.org

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

2.1. This Instruction applies to:

2.1.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organization entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

2.1.2. Activities and programs involving the collection, management, and use of environmental data, supporting all applicable laws and regulations, at DoD operations, activities, and installations worldwide, including Government-owned/contractor-operated facilities and formerly-used defense sites (FUDS).

2.2. This Instruction does not apply to:

2.2.1. Contractor-owned and contractor-operated facilities that are not on real property owned and controlled by the Department of Defense.

2.2.2. Radiological data collected under the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program.

3. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Instruction are defined in Enclosure 1.

4. POLICY

It is DoD policy to:

4.1. Comply with the DoD Information Quality Guidelines in accordance with Reference (a).

4.2. Work with all appropriate regulatory authorities and land management agencies, including those representing the Federal Government, and State, Indian tribal, and local governments, to improve the planning, collection, and use of environmental data.

4.3. Implement environmental data quality systems for the collection and use of environmental data consistent with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society for Quality (ASQ) standard E4-2004 (Reference (d)) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard 17025 (Reference (e)).

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations & Environment (DUSD(I&E)), under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, shall:

5.1.1. Ensure the use of quality environmental data for the environmental, safety, and occupational health programs.

5.1.2. Develop such DoD issuances as necessary to implement environmental quality systems.

5.2. The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ADUSD(ESOH)), under the DUSD(I&E), shall:

5.2.1. Provide coordination and oversight to promote the consistent implementation of environmental quality systems within the Department of Defense.

5.2.2. In consultation with the affected Military Department(s), represent the Department of Defense in resolving intergovernmental and interdepartmental policy disagreements concerning environmental data quality issues.

5.2.3. Review and submit DoD budget requests to implement this Instruction.

5.2.4. In accordance with Reference (c), prepare DoD issuances for the approval of DUSD(I&E).

5.2.5. Include environmental data quality in periodic management reviews.

5.2.6. Oversee management of the DoD EDQW, issue its charter, and appoint its chair.

5.3. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

5.3.1. Comply with this Instruction.

5.3.2. Implement environmental quality systems for DoD Component-level activities and operations related to environmental data collection and use.

5.3.3. Establish programs to monitor and achieve progress toward the implementation of environmental quality systems.

5.3.4. Plan, program, and budget for the implementation of environmental quality systems, consistent with environmental laws and regulations, DoD guidance, and fiscal policies.

5.3.5. Conduct quality assurance surveillance and include environmental data quality in periodic management reviews as required by DUSD(I&E).

5.3.6. Implement any necessary corrective action identified during quality assurance surveillance activities and management reviews.

5.4. The Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L), and the Secretaries of the Military Departments, in addition, shall:

5.4.1. Provide Component Principals (senior military or civilian government officials) with the authority to recommend resources and policy to their respective Components to support the EDQW.

5.4.2. Provide one or more offices or organizations to participate in the EDQW and in the development and maintenance of DoD publications authorized by this Instruction.

5.5. The Secretary of the Navy, in addition, shall:

5.5.1. In coordination with the Heads of DoD Components, develop for approval by the ADUSD(ESOH) a charter outlining functions and responsibilities for the EDQW and nominate an EDQW chair to the ADUSD(ESOH).

5.5.2. Plan, program, and budget for activities necessary to support operation of the EDQW.


5.5.3. Manage DoD Component coordination of proposals by the EDQW, before presentation to the ADUSD(ESOH).

5.5.4. Raise emerging DoD environmental data quality, sampling, and testing issues with the appropriate DoD Components.

5.5.5. Provide Measures of Merit for monitoring progress in implementing environmental quality systems, in accordance with Enclosure 2.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.



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Under Secretary of Defense for
Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

Enclosures – 2

E1. Definitions

E2. Measures of Merit

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

DEFINITIONS

E1.1. Environmental Data. Any measurement or information that describes environmental processes, locations, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology (Reference (d)).

E1.2. Quality. An encompassing term, of which utility, objectivity, and integrity are the constituents. Utility refers to the usefulness of the information to the intended users. Objectivity focuses on whether the disseminated information is being presented in an accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased manner, and as a matter of substance, is accurate, reliable, and unbiased. Integrity refers to security – the protection of information from unauthorized access or revision, to ensure that the information is not compromised through corruption or falsification (67 FR 8452) (Reference (f)).

E1.3. Quality System. A structured and documented management system describing the policies, objectives, principles, organizational authority, responsibilities, accountability, and implementation plan of an organization for ensuring quality in its work processes, products (items), and services (Reference (d)).

E1.4. State. Includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

MEASURES OF MERIT

E.2.1. Ensure that milestones established in DoD Component quality systems implementation plans are met.

E.2.2. Ensure that DoD procurement actions require compliance with the DoD Quality Systems Manual.

E.2.3. Ensure environmental restoration and compliance programs conduct sampling and testing according to the documents authorized by this Instruction.

E.2.4. Ensure appropriate and adequate Quality Management Plans are developed as authorized by this Instruction.