

Include the following clause whenever "Alternatives to Lot Acceptance Sampling, including SPC" is checked on the contract Clause Selection Worksheet, ARDEC Form 367-E.

52.246-4002

**ALTERNATIVES TO LOT ACCEPTANCE SAMPLING
(INCLUDING STATISTICAL PROCESS CONTROL (SPC))**

OCT/2010

(a) Offerors are encouraged to propose a defect prevention strategy in lieu of lot acceptance inspection and testing requirements cited in the technical data package. The Government recognizes that industry has developed numerous prevention based strategies which result in reduced process variation and promote continuous process improvement initiatives. Use of alternatives to lot acceptance sampling can provide offerors the latitude of implementing prevention based programs that are suitable to their particular mode of operation. Offerors are encouraged to submit their alternative proposals prior to award. Although the Government will entertain post award requests, there is no guarantee such requests will be accepted.

(b) Requests to use alternatives to lot acceptance sampling shall be provided to the Contracting Officer for review and approval or disapproval. Such requests shall include:

(1) Identification of the specific inspections and tests to be reduced or eliminated.

(2) A description of your prevention based program. This should include such topics as a training program and the performance of audits.

(3) A description of the tools used to monitor and control the specific processes being evaluated. This should include such topics as criteria for determining out of control conditions and procedures to be used when an out of control condition is detected.

(4) The results of a process performance study, and if available, the results of a process capability study.

(5) For SPC data to be used as an alternative to lot acceptance sampling, the following conditions shall be met:

(i) The process is in a state of statistical control using SPC control chart methods.

(ii) Variable data: for Critical characteristics a CPK \geq 2.00 (or equivalent capability) is achieved; for Major characteristics a CPK \geq 1.33 (or equivalent capability) is achieved.

(iii) Attribute data: for Critical Characteristics a process average of 100% of the product conforming to the specification; for Major Characteristics a process average of 99.9937% of the product conforming to the specification.

(c) Proposals offered after award. The Contracting Officer is responsible for accepting or rejecting the alternate lot acceptance procedure submitted by the contractor. The contractor may submit an alternate lot acceptance procedure at any time during the performance of this contract. The Contracting Officer is responsible for accepting or rejecting the alternate procedure within 30 days of receipt. If the Government needs more time to evaluate the alternate procedure, the Contracting Officer shall notify the contractor in writing, giving the reasons and the anticipated decision date. The contractor may withdraw its proposal at anytime prior to its incorporation by contract modification. Because offerors may withdraw their proposal at anytime, the Contracting Officer's failure to timely accept or reject the proposal shall not constitute grounds for claim against the Government. Any proposed and accepted procedure must be incorporated by contract modification. If the alternate procedure is not accepted, the Contracting Officer shall provide the contractor with written notification, explaining the reasons for rejection.

(d) Any equitable adjustment resulting from approval of an alternate lot acceptance procedure described in paragraph (c) above will be handled in accordance with the Changes clause of this contract.

(e) Until notification is received, the contractor is required to perform under this contract in accordance with the requirements herein, including lot acceptance inspection and testing.