

SECTION 15

QUALIFICATION APPROVAL

15.1. Before valves can be accepted to a contract for supply to the Services it is necessary for the manufacturer to obtain Qualification Approval of the design of the valve to be supplied. This condition does not apply to the valves listed in Appendix XVII. The name of the Approving Authority is given in the Test Specification. Qualification Approval given by that Authority will apply to contracts for any Service unless otherwise stated.

15.1.1. If Qualification Approval is required in connection with any particular contract the appropriate Authority is to be informed of the despatch of the sample valves and reference made to the contract concerned. However, it is not necessary for a manufacturer to wait until he has received a contract before submitting valves for Qualification Approval.

15.1.2. Sample valves submitted for Qualification Approval shall be accompanied by Form S.S.C.238 duly completed by the manufacturer. (Specimen forms may be obtained from the T.V.C. Office, Ministry of Aviation, Castlewood House, 77, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1.).

15.1.3. The specified marking need not appear on sample valves submitted for Qualification Approval but the valves and packages must be clearly marked to provide safe means of identification.

15.1.4. One hundred sample valves will be required for Qualification Approval of a Reliable Valve, twelve of a Semiconductor Diode and six of all other types except when otherwise directed by the Approving Authority.

15.1.5. When valves are submitted for Qualification Approval two sample valves will be sealed and held for reference, one by the Approving Authority and one by the manufacturer, to enable comparison to be made later with valves purporting to be in accordance with approved samples. When this is impracticable adequate information (including drawings and photographs) to the satisfaction of the Authority will be accepted in lieu of a sample valve.

15.1.6. Valves submitted for Approval will be tested to this Specification and to the appropriate Test Specification. They may also be tested in equipment typical of that in which they are intended to be used.

15.1.7. Bulk deliveries are not to be made by a manufacturer until he has received notification of Qualification Approval from the Authority, except when delivery under a concession has been approved. (See Clause 4.2), or when Approval has been given for the use of the valve in MDAP equipment.

15.2. Production Approval. When valves are produced in accordance with Appendix IX a further stage of approval may be demanded. The number of valves required will be determined by the Inspection Levels and Acceptable Quality Levels stated in the Test Specification and shall be not less than the minimum number which will allow the specified Acceptable Quality Levels to be assessed.

Valves supplied for this stage of approval shall be selected at random from the production lot and shall be accompanied by full test results obtained on a similar sample from the same production lot.

15.3. Manufacturers shall submit new samples of valves for Qualification Approval if:-

- (a) changes in design (as compared with previously approved valves) likely to affect the performance of the valve are introduced,
- or (b) the interval since the type was last manufactured to Government order exceeds five years.

15.4. When a subsidiary factory is required to manufacture a valve, of a type and design for which Qualification Approval has already been granted to the parent factory, the following procedure shall apply:-

- (a) Samples shall be submitted for Qualification Approval.
- (b) The Approving Authority will make a preliminary inspection of the samples. If they appear to conform to the design already approved for the parent factory the manufacturer will be informed so that delivery of valves may proceed while full Qualification Approval tests are being completed.

When changes in design have been approved for the parent factory a separate submission of samples by a subsidiary factory will not always be necessary. At the time of the submission of samples the parent factory shall state whether it is intended to introduce the modification into valves manufactured by a subsidiary factory. The Approving Authority will then state whether a separate submission by the subsidiary factory will be required.

15.5. Qualification Approval granted in respect of a sample batch of valves shall not be taken to approve any departure from the specified requirements for that type of valve that may have existed in the samples submitted. Any such departure from the requirements of this specification must be specifically mentioned in the covering correspondence if a concession approving it is desired by the manufacturer.

15.6. Correspondence granting Qualification Approval will refer to the valves only and will not include packing unless this is expressly stated.

15.7. Maintenance of Qualification Approval Tests

15.7.1. When required by contract documents Maintenance of Qualification Approval Tests will be performed at suitable intervals (normally not more than once in six months) during the course of manufacture of the valves ordered.

When requested by the Inspection Authority the contractor shall provide the Testing Authority^x with the necessary samples at the appropriate intervals and shall certify that such samples are typical of the bulk supply.

The Testing Authority will report the results of the tests to the Inspection Authority, Qualification Approval Authority, Production Departments and the Contractor.

Failure to pass Maintenance of Qualification Approval Tests will at once be notified by the Testing Authority to the Inspection Authority, Qualification Approval Authority, Production Departments and the Contractor, and acceptance may be suspended.

15.7.2. In circumstances which indicate that valves may fail to meet the Qualification Approval requirements, the Inspection Authority may propose that the tests described in 15.7.1. be exceptionally applied. On so doing, the Inspection Authority shall formally notify the Contractor to this effect and may suspend acceptance as from the date of the notice, pending the outcome of the test.

^x Director E.I.D. "Aquila", Golf Road, Bromley, Kent.