

CRITICAL APPLICATION ITEMS (CAI) ALTERNATE SOURCES

This procedure applies to the evaluation of alternate sources for Critical Application Items (CAI). An alternate source evaluation requires the following supporting documentation.

If the alternate source is a dealer or supplier (a non-manufacturing source) of the item for which the offeror is seeking approval, the category of the actual manufacturer supplying parts to the dealer or supplier will apply for the purpose of evaluation procedures. An actual manufacturer is defined as that vendor with plant equipment and personnel necessary to manufacture, on the premises, the item for which alternate source approval is being requested. The name and address of the manufacturer must be provided for consideration for source approval. The source evaluation/approval procedures apply only to newly manufactured items not government surplus offers.

Three categories involve alternate source evaluation/approval:

- Category 1 - Alternate source for the same item previously provided by the offeror to the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).
- Category 2 - Alternate source for a similar item provided by the offeror to the OEM or military services.
- Category 3 - Alternate source that has neither provided the same nor similar item(s) to the OEM or military services.

When requesting alternate source approval for a specific item that falls into one of these three categories, it is important to provide all of the following data. Submission of the requested information does not guarantee approval. Additional information, documentation or samples may be required in any request for source approval. Regardless of the category, a site survey visit of the facility may be conducted to further evaluate their capabilities.

For Categories 1, 2, and 3:

Current brochures or synopses of the company's capabilities. Identify if the company seeking approval is a non-manufacturing source or the actual manufacturer.

When a source identified must perform to a prime contractor's specifications, the prime contractor shall approve that source for the specific process. Wherever available, provide certifications from the prime contractor since submittal of this evidence of capability will expedite processing of the source approval request. If the company requesting source approval plans to use a sub-vendor not currently approved by the prime, the source approval package provided to the military service must include complete documentation

substantiating the capabilities and qualifications of that sub-vendor. Note, however, that additional testing will be required in most cases.

Description of Quality Program (e.g., MIL-I-45208, MIL-Q-9858, ISO 9000 series, OEM quality rating) and a copy of the company's quality assurance manual. In addition, submit a copy of the latest survey results performed by a Government agency and/or prime contractor, including site or pre-award surveys.

For Category 1:

The Offeror must provide:

- A complete set of current configuration drawings required to manufacture the item, including test procedures. This shall include copies of the associated specifications or verification that the company has all required specifications in their possession.
- Copies of detailed process/operation sheets used to manufacture the item, including, but not limited to, detailed shop sketches used in manufacturing.
- The most recent copies of purchase orders or shipping documents to OEM. When available, attach a copy of the current "Requirements Control Card/Quality Assurance Document."
- A summarization of quality deficiencies experienced in the past two years of manufacture. Include data relative to sub-vendors, Nonconforming Material, and Material Review Board (MRB) actions and resolutions when applicable, and/or previous contract if not within the last 2 years.
- A copy of inspection method sheets used in manufacturing and final inspection.
- The identification of "value added" by the prime contractor.

For Category 2:

The Offeror must provide:

- A complete set of current configuration drawings for the item for which the company is seeking source approval.
- A complete set of current configuration drawings for the similar item for which the company seeking source approval is currently approved.
- Copies of detailed process/operation sheets used to manufacture the similar item, including, but not limited to, detailed shop sketches used in manufacturing.

- Copies of purchase orders or shipping documents to OEM or military services, for the similar item. When available, attach a copy of the current “Requirements Control Card/Quality Assurance Document.”

The identification of the difference between similar items and the item the company is seeking approval to manufacture.

- A summarization of quality deficiencies experienced in the past two years during manufacture of similar items. Include data relative to sub-vendors, actions and resolutions when applicable and/or previous contract if not within the last two years.
- A copy of inspection method sheets used in manufacturing and final inspection of the similar item.
- The identification of “value added” by the prime contractor.

For Category 3:

The Offeror must provide:

- A complete set of current configuration drawings for the item for which the company is seeking approval.
- The identification of process/operations the company intends to use in the manufacture of the item.
- The identification of acceptance test/inspection procedures the company intends to incorporate and independent test labs, including name, the company intends to use.
- A technical briefing, if requested.
- A submission of samples by the company seeking source approval may be required. Advise on ability to supply.

If any of the information specified above cannot be provided by the prospective source(s), the Defense Supply Center shall reject the offer, advising the contractor of what data are missing. Source approval requests that do not contain the above listed data will not be forwarded to the Engineering Support Activity.