Difference

Quality Control

- What: The activities or techniques used to achieve and maintain the product quality, process and service.
- How: Finding & eliminating causes of quality problems through tools & equipment so that customer's requirements are continually met.

Quality Assurance:

- What: Prevention of quality problems through planned and systematic activities including documentation.
- How: Establish a good quality management system and the assessment of its adequacy & conformance audit of the operation system & the review of the system itself.

Difference

Quality Control

- Product
- Reactive
- Line Function
- Find the defects
- Walk through
- Testing
- Inspection
- Checkpoint Review

Quality Assurance:

- Process
- Pro-active
- Staff Function
- Prevent the defects
- Quality Audit
- Defining Process
- Selection of tools
- Trainings

Other Definitions

Merriam Dictionary

- Quality Control is the activity of checking goods as they are produced to make sure that the final products are good
- Quality Assurance is a program for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of a project, service, or facility to ensure that standards of quality are being met

Oxford Dictionaries

- Quality Control is a system of maintaining standards in manufactured products by testing a sample of the output against the specification.
- Quality Assurance is the maintenance of a desired level of quality in a service or product, especially by means of attention to every stage of the process of delivery or production.

Difference

Quality Control (QC)	Quality Assurance (QA)
QC is performed after the work has been completed and the deliverable is created.	QA is performed while the work is being done to create the deliverable.
QC is performed on the created deliverable.	QA is performed on the process to create the deliverable.
QC is all about created deliverables – perform testing & inspections, finding faults & defects, analyze faults & defects, suggest repairs etc.	QA is all about defined processes – follow process, ensure processes are followed, analyze processes, find process gaps, suggest process improvements etc.