# PART 5346 – Quality Assurance

*Revised: June 2023*

## SUBPART 5346.1 – GENERAL

### 5346.103 Contracting Office Responsibilities

See [MP5346.103](https://www.acquisition.gov/affars/mp5346.103-contracting-office-responsibilities) for Department of the Air Force requirements regarding contracting office responsibilities for the Quality Assurance Program.

**5346.311** **Higher-Level Contract Quality Requirement.**

Agencies shall establish procedures for determining when higher-level contract quality requirements are necessary, for determining the risk (both the likelihood and the impact) of nonconformance, and for advising the contracting officer about which higher-level standards should be applied and included in the solicitation and contract. Requiring compliance with higher-level quality standards is necessary in solicitations and contracts for complex or critical items (see FAR [46.203](https://www.acquisition.gov/far/part-46#FAR_46_204)) or when the technical requirements of the contract require -

(1) Control of such things as design, work operations, in-process controls, testing and inspection; or

(2) Attention to such factors as organization, planning, work instructions, documentation control, and advanced metrology,

(a) The Contractor shall comply with the higher-level quality standard(s) listed below.

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(b) The Contractor shall include applicable requirements of the higher-level quality standard(s) listed in paragraph (a) of this clause and the requirement to flow down such standards, as applicable, to lower-tier subcontracts, in-

(1) Any subcontract for critical and complex items (see FAR [46.203](https://www.acquisition.gov/far/46.203)(b) and (c)); or

(2) When the technical requirements of a subcontract require-

(i) Control of such things as design, work operations, in-process control, testing, and inspection; or

(ii) Attention to such factors as organization, planning, work instructions, documentation control, and advanced metrology.

(c) See FAR [46.311](https://www.acquisition.gov/far/46.311)