**Orientation**

The orientation of quality control and quality assurance is much different. QA is process-oriented. Teams use quality assurance tools to standardize the product manufacturing process to prevent any problems with its results. These QA methods help to improve the production process and protect quality standards throughout the process.

In contrast, QC is product-oriented. These activities help teams identify quality issues and correct those problems with the finished product. Quality control systems help to evaluate the outputs of the production process. While quality assurance focuses on the actions teams can take to make products, quality control centers on the results of their actions.

**Focus**

The focus of quality assurance is meeting quality requirements by preventing issues within a process that would affect the product's quality. Because of its focus, QA is a proactive process. Teams can continually adapt and refine their QA activities to improve the overall quality of the production process. When everyone on the production team follows QA processes, the finished product is more likely to meet quality standards.

Quality control has a different focus than QA. It aims to find problems with a product after they have already occurred. Unlike QA, quality control is a reactive process. If QC teams find issues with a product, they can alert the production team to make changes to their processes. Often, teams may recommend a review of QA processes when they detect issues with a product's quality.