

SPG01

Special Processes Guidebook

Issue 3

July 2025

Lockheed Martin UK Ampthill Ltd



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1. Introduction

1.1. Intent

The intent of this document is to increase knowledge and understanding of special processes throughout the supply chain. The most up to date version of this document is maintained online at <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-gb/suppliers/mfc-uk.html>. This document may be copied by Lockheed Martin suppliers and subcontractors (at any tier of subcontracting) for use in support of Lockheed Martin contracts provided that it is not modified in any way and that this and all other copyright statements are retained.

1.2. Scope

This document defines special processes applicable to the aerospace, space and defence sectors, as well as other high-performance and safety-critical industries including, but not limited to, automotive, nuclear, medical device manufacturing and advanced electronics. These processes are characterised by their reliance on operator skill, specialised equipment, and/or controlled environments, where the resulting output cannot be fully verified through subsequent inspection and must therefore be validated through stringent process controls.

2. What Are Special Processes?

2.1. ISO9000 Fundamentals and Vocabulary

In accordance with ISO9000:2015(E) 3.4.1 Process, Note 5: A process where the conformity of the resulting output cannot be readily or economically validated is frequently referred to as a "special process".

2.2. ISO9001 Requirements

Special Processes are reference in ISO9001 8.5.1 f "the validation, and periodic revalidation, of the ability to achieve planned results of the processes for production and service provision, where the resulting output cannot be verified by subsequent monitoring or measurement"

2.3. AS9100 Requirements for Aviation, Space and Defence

Specific requirements are listed in AS9100 8.5.1.2 Validation and Control of Special Processes as; For processes where the resulting output cannot be verified by subsequent monitoring or measurement, the organization shall establish arrangements for these processes including, as applicable:

- definition of criteria for the review and approval of the processes;
- determination of conditions to maintain the approval;
- approval of facilities and equipment;
- qualification of persons;
- use of specific methods and procedures for implementation and monitoring the processes;
- requirements for documented information to be retained.

2.4. Summary

A special process is one in which the resulting product—or service applied to a product—cannot be fully verified through nondestructive inspection or measurement. Since conformity to requirements cannot be confirmed using calibrated tools or standard methods, these processes require validation. Validation is typically performed by processing a representative test sample under normal operating conditions and conducting destructive testing to demonstrate that the process consistently yields results that meet specifications.

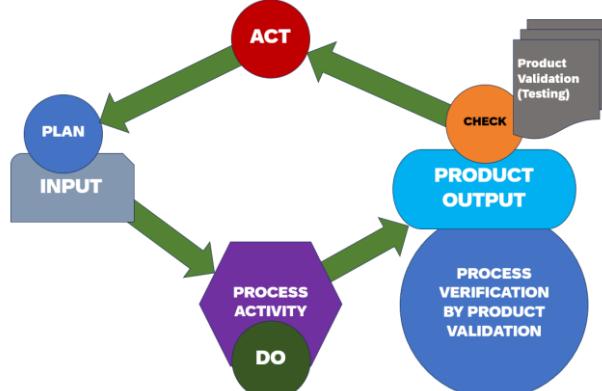
3. Production Process Verification

3.1. Verifiable (Non Special) Process

To further understand, an output of a process that can be verified is usually done during the production process verification or inspection. For example, where a machined part is manufactured to design data that includes dimensional tolerances is inspected. In this case, the output can be verified or tested (validated) by the use of a calibrated tool or measuring instrumentation. The 'inspection' or production process verification activity ensures the production process is able to produce product that meet requirements. This activity can be referred to as first article inspection. In other words, the product (output) inspection or test can verify the process.

3.2. Process Verification By Product Validation PDCA Cycle

The below Plan Do Check Act diagram demonstrates typically how process output (product) is validated which directly verifies the process is sufficient to produce consistent and conforming output.



4. Special Process Validation

4.1. Process Control

Special processes require a different approach to control. Instead of the output being directly measured for conformity, the process itself is 'measured' (validated). This validation process takes the form of periodic testing and qualification of the process and / or operators performing the process against criteria detailed in specifications.

One or more of the following activities are used to validate a special process: -

- Test pieces processed and destructively tested and results evaluated on a periodic basis
- Qualified Operators are periodically evaluated or re-qualified
- Periodic monitoring, testing and system accuracy tests are performed on the process, equipment and measurement instrumentation.

4.2. Periodic Testing (Re-Validation)

All special processes must be validated and re-validated (periodically tested) to verify that the process is capable of producing product that repeatedly meets requirements. Usually validation consists of processing a test piece or test standard made of the same material with known properties through the special process and then destructively testing the test piece. For example for surface treatment such as chemical conversion coating, electroplating, anodising or application of paint the validation includes the periodic adhesion testing and salt spray (corrosion) testing of test coupons that are processed on a monthly or batch basis etc.

4.3. Qualification

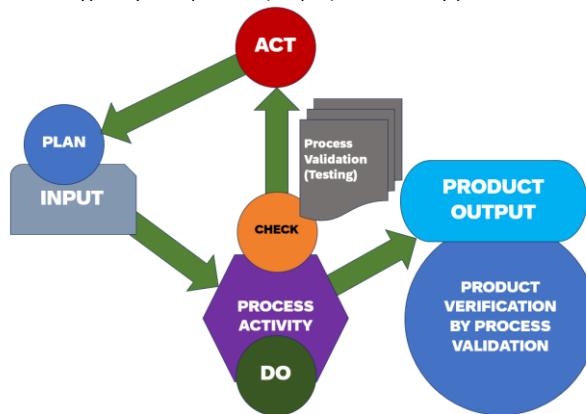
Some special processes require processing staff to be formally qualified and periodically re-qualified as part of the validation process. For Example, coded welder and weld inspection, Non-destructive Testing (NDT) Level II & III qualification etc.

4.4. Monitoring & System Accuracy Testing

Some special processes require periodic monitoring of the system accuracy. For example, heat treatment system accuracy test and temperature uniformity survey (AMS2750 Pyrometry SAT & TUS) or NDT penetrant flaw detect TAM panel processing and evaluation to verify the NDT system is functioning correctly etc.

4.5. Product Verification By Process Validation PDCA Cycle

The below Plan Do Check Act diagram demonstrates typically how product (output) is verified by process validation and re-validation (periodic testing).



5. Process Risks and Failure Modes

If special processes are not validated or periodically tested (re-validated) then, as a consequence, deficiencies can become apparent only after the product is in use or the service has been delivered. For example where parts are coated (plated or painted), lack of process control can result in poor adhesion and the coating may crack, blister, flake or peel after delivery or in service etc. See the appendix at the end of this document.

5.1. Process Failure Mode Effect Analysis (PFMEA)

All processes including special processes can benefit from a failure mode effect analysis activity to anticipate risks and the output of the PFMEA should input into process control documentation. For further guidance see AS13004 Process Failure Mode and Effects Analysis and Control Plans.

5.2. Process Control Three Tiers of Failure

Process control failures typically fall into three distinct tiers: **Intent**, **Implementation** and **Effectiveness**. Understanding and addressing each of these is critical to maintaining product conformity.

5.2.1. Intent

This failure occurs when there is no deliberate effort to validate the process, often stemming from a lack of awareness, misunderstanding of requirements, or a belief that validation is unnecessary or too costly.

5.2.1.1. Common Causes:

- Misinterpretation of specifications, standards or customer requirements.
- Overconfidence in legacy processes or anecdotal evidence ("we've always done it this way").
- Underestimating the risks associated with unvalidated processes.
- Budget constraints or time pressures leading to a de-prioritisation of validation activities.

5.2.1.2. Typical Consequences:

- Uncontrolled variation in process output.
- Undetected nonconformities.
- Increased risk of field failures or customer returns.

5.2.1.3. Best Practices to Address Intent Failures:

- Clear documentation for special processes. Refer to the special process documented information in this publication.
- Training leadership and technical staff on validation requirements.
- Embedding process validation into the product lifecycle and risk assessment activities.

5.2.2. Implementation

Here, the organisation understands the need for process validation and intends to comply, but fails to effectively implement validation or training due to resource gaps, poor planning or weak procedural controls.

5.2.2.1. Common Causes:

- Incomplete or generic validation plans that don't reflect actual process conditions.
- Lack of skilled personnel to develop or execute validation protocols.
- Poor coordination between engineering, quality and production teams.
- Inadequate training on new or revised processes.

5.2.2.2. Typical Consequences:

- Inconsistent validation results.
- Nonstandard process execution during production.
- Difficulty proving conformity during audits.

5.2.2.3. Best Practices to Address Implementation Failures:

- Develop detailed, process-specific validation protocols including measurable criteria.
- Appoint process owners with appropriate knowledge and understanding of the requirements for special processes.
- Use cross-functional teams for validation planning and execution.
- Ensure documentation includes all critical inputs, environmental conditions and equipment parameters.
- Train operators and quality inspectors before process release.

5.2.3. Effectiveness

The special process is validated through defined controlled conditions but the process is not always followed correctly during normal production.

5.2.3.1. Common Causes:

- Operator workarounds or informal "tribal knowledge."
- Inadequate control over key variables (e.g., temperature, time, pressure).
- Poor maintenance of validated equipment.
- Failure to perform periodic revalidation or process audits.

5.2.3.2. Typical Consequences:

- Reduced process capability over time.
- Nonconformances that pass undetected due to reliance on invalid process assumptions.
- Customer escapes or audit findings due to lack of adherence to validated conditions.

5.2.3.3. Best Practices to Address Effectiveness Failures:

- Enforce process discipline through standard work instructions and job aids.
- Use statistical process control (SPC) to monitor critical parameters.
- Conduct periodic internal audits focused on special processes.
- Schedule and document revalidation activities, especially after process changes.

5.3. Reducing Risk By Auditing Special Processes

Both internal and externally sourced special processes must be subject to regular audits to obtain objective evidence that process validation is fully compliant with applicable specifications and standards. These audits are essential to verify that processes are executed correctly and that the final outputs consistently meet all quality requirements.

5.3.1. Checklists

To ensure thorough and consistent evaluations, audit checklists should be directly derived from the relevant specifications or standards, providing a structured framework for assessment. This systematic approach enables auditors to verify each process element and confirm adherence to all validation procedures. Regular surveillance audits also serve to identify potential nonconformities or opportunities for improvement, facilitating timely corrective actions that uphold process integrity and product quality.

5.3.2. Distinguishing Audits from Validation Requirements

While surveillance audits and quality verification activities are critical for ongoing compliance monitoring, they must not replace the formal validation and revalidation activities mandated by the applicable standards or specifications.

6. Defined Special Processes for Aerospace, Space, Defence and Reliability-Critical Sectors

6.1. Special Processes Reference Table

The below table contains special process categories and specific processes within each category. Each of the below specific processes will have or produce one or more characteristic that can only be tested or verified by destructive methods.

| Special Processes Incorporated in Manufacturing | | |
|--|---|--|
| Welding | Chemical Processing | Electronics |
| Rotational Friction / Inertia Welding, Torch / Induction Brazing, Flash Welding & Laser Welding, Electron Beam Welding, Resistance Welding, Fusion Welding & Evaluation of Welds | Electroplating, Electroforming, Electroless Plating, Anodising, Chemical Conversion Coatings, Passivation, Painting & Dry-Film, Surface Enhancement, Etching & Chemical Cleaning, Surface Treatment Engineering | Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Manufacture, PCB Assembly (Incl. Soldering), Cable and Harness Assemblies, Conformal Coating, Battery Cell Manufacture & Array Assemblies |
| Composites | Elastomer Seals | Heat Treatment |
| Prepreg, Adhesive Bonding, Resin Film Infusion, Metal Bonding, Core Processing, Liquid Resin & Compression Moulding | Plate Seals, Fabric / Textile Reinforced Seals, O-Rings & Molded Shapes | Brazing (including dip brazing), Metal Heat Treating, Carburizing, Nitriding, Hot Isostatic Pressing, Induction Hardening & Sintering |
| Materials Testing & Inspection | Nonconventional Machining | Non-destructive Testing |
| Chemical Analysis, Mechanical Testing, Metallography, Micro Indentation Hardness Testing, Corrosion Testing, Fastener Testing, Physical Testing & Thermal Testing | Electrochemical Machining, Electrochemical Grinding, Electrical Discharge Machining, Laser Beam Machining, Laser Part Marking & Spark Erosion Grinding | Penetrant Flaw Detect, Anodise Flaw Detect, Magnetic Particle Inspection, Ultrasonic Testing, Radiographic Inspection Testing & Eddy Current Inspection Testing |
| Additive Manufacturing | | |
| Directed Energy Deposition (DED) | Powder Bed Fusion (PBF) | Sheet Lamination (SHL) |
| Laser Engineered Net Shaping (LENS), Electron Beam Additive Manufacturing (EBAM), Wire Arc Additive Manufacturing (WAAM) | Selective laser sintering (SLS), Selective laser melting (SLM), Direct metal laser sintering (DMLS), Electron beam melting (EBM), Selective heat sintering (SHS) & High-speed sintering (HSS) | Laminated object manufacturing (LOM), Selective lamination composite object manufacturing (SLCOM), Plastic sheet lamination (PSL), Selective deposition lamination (SDL) |
| Material Extrusion (MEX) | Material Jetting (MJT) & Binder Jetting (BJT) | Vat Photopolymerization (VPP) |
| Fused deposition modelling (FDM) & Fused filament fabrication (FFF) | PolyJet, Nanoparticle jetting (NPJ), Drop on demand (DOD) | Stereolithography (SLA), Digital light processing (DLP) & Continuous digital light processing (CLIP) |

6.2. Standards & Specifications

All special processes have a related standard or specification that defines the validation method, frequency and criteria to be applied. For example see the below table of standards and specifications relating to special processes. Please note that this list is not comprehensive.

| Examples of Special Process Standards & Specifications | | |
|--|--|---|
| Welding | Chemical Processing | Electronics |
| ISO 24394, Def Stan 03-34, Def Stan 08-39, ISO 10042, ISO 3834, ISO 2553, AWS D17, AWS B5.2 | MIL-PRF-8625, MIL-DTL-5541, AMS 2700, AMS-QQ-N-290, ASTM B545, ISO 2081, ISO 4042, AMS 03-11, AMS 2454, Def Stan 03-32 | IPC J-STD-001, IPC-A-600, IPC-A-610, IPC-A-620, IPC-A-630, IPC-CC-830 |
| Composites | Elastomer Seals | Heat Treatment |
| ASTM E2981, ASTM D6856 ASTM D7745, AMS 3914, AMS 6885, AMS 3961, ISO 21368 | ISO 27996, AS4716, AS3569 | AMS 2750, AMS 2759, AMS 2769, AMS 2770, AMS 2771, AMS 2772, AMS 2773, AWS A5.31, AWS C3.7, ISO 13585 |
| Materials Testing & Inspection | Nonconventional Machining | Non-destructive Testing |
| ISO 22826, ASTM E103, ASTM E1842, ISO 6892, ASTM E1004, AMS2658, ASTM B-117, ISO 15530-3, ASME B89, ISO 898-1, ISO 3506-1, ASTM F606 | AMS2548, ASTM DL MNL56, VDI 3400, BS 2634-2 | ASTM E1417, ISO 3452, ISO 5579, EN 4179, ISO 9712, ISO TS 11774, ASTM E3166, ASTM E165, ASTM E1209, ASTM E709 |
| Additive Manufacturing | | |
| DNV-CG-0197, ISO/ASTM 52904, ASTM 52927, ISO 17295, ASTM 52950, ASTM 52919, ASTM 52930, ASTM 52910, ASTM 52900, ASTM F3635, AWS D20.1, ASTM DL STP1631, NACE AMPP TR21522, ASTM F3554, AMS7005, ASTM F3413 | | |

6.3. External Sources of Special Processes

When outsourcing special processes to external providers, it is imperative to include the applicable standards or specifications within the design documentation or purchase order. This must clearly detail the requirements for process control, validation methods and any additional criteria necessary to ensure the process consistently meets established quality requirements.

7. Associations, Groups, Programmes and Institutions

7.1. Key Organisations Supporting Special Processes

There are numerous professional bodies, industry groups, programmes and institutions that play a vital role in supporting specific special processes. These organisations offer professional memberships, technical guidance, training, certification and qualification programmes to promote industry standards and best practices.

7.2. Organisation List

Below is a selection of some of the most widely recognised and respected organisations in their field.

7.2.1. Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG)

[AIAG](#) is the global automotive industry's collaborative hub — uniting OEMs, suppliers and service providers to create best-in-class processes for quality, supply chain and sustainability.

7.2.2. European Society for Composite Materials (ESCM)

The [ESCM](#) is a non-profit, non-governmental scientific and engineering association bringing together people from all over Europe with recognized expertise and contributions in composite materials. ESCM members share common goals to advance knowledge and innovation in this field.

7.2.3. Institute of Electronics (IE)

The [IE](#) is one of the oldest Institutions in the UK, specifically for electronic engineers. Formed in 1930 and incorporated in 1935 the Institution has a long history of excellence in the field of electronics.

7.2.4. Institute of Materials Finishing (IMF)

The [IMF](#) was established in 1925 as the Electroplaters and Depositors Technical Society to share technical knowledge on electrodeposition through publications, meetings, and conferences. Renamed the Institute of Metal Finishing in 1951, its focus expanded to all metal surface finishing. In 2013, it became the Institute of Materials Finishing to reflect its broader scope, including electroplating, painting, anodising, printed circuitry, and related treatments. More recently, the IMF has further extended its interest to encompass wider aspects of surface engineering.

7.2.5. Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)

The [IOM3 Elastomer Group](#), formerly known as the Rubber In Engineering Group (RIEG), organises regular webinars, technical discussion meetings and conferences to develop a broader understanding of the behavior of elastomers and elastomer composites.

7.2.6. The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT)

The aim of [BINDT](#) is to promote the advancement of the science and practice of non-destructive testing (NDT), condition monitoring (CM), diagnostic engineering and all other materials and quality testing disciplines

7.2.7. Nadcap

The [Nadcap](#) programme is an industry-led conformity assessment initiative that unites technical experts from the aviation, defence and space sectors to establish special process accreditation requirements, accredit suppliers and define operational standards.

7.2.8. Metal Treatment Institute (MTI)

As the largest network of heat treaters in the world, [MTI](#) strives to fulfill its mission of enhancing the image and profitability of the heat treating industry.

7.2.9. The Welding Institute (TWI)

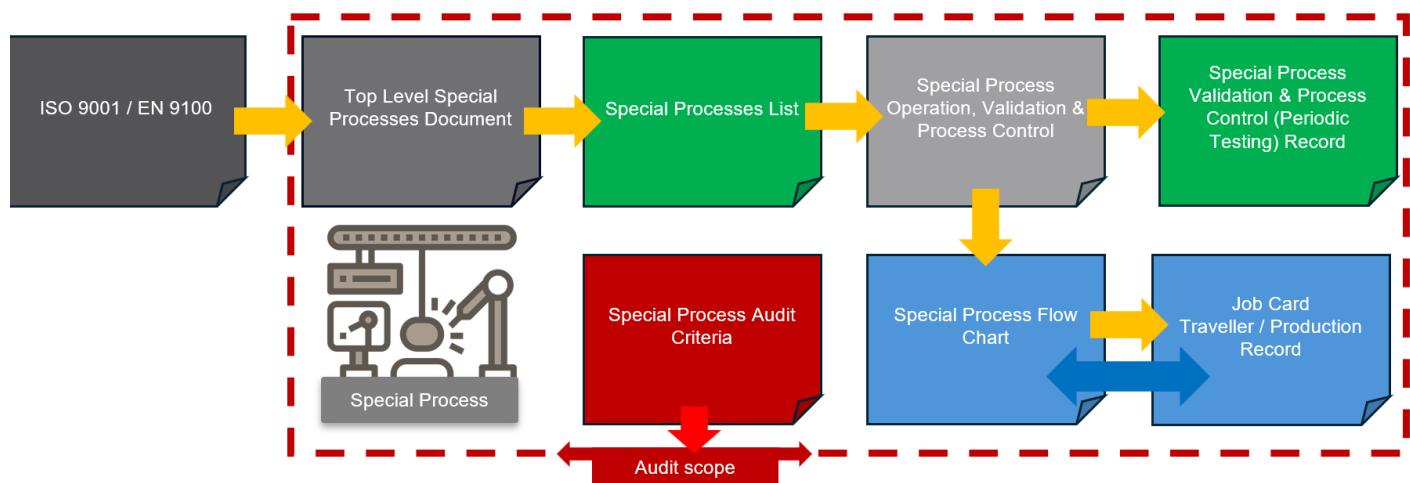
[TWI](#) is the leading engineering institution supporting welding and joining professionals with welding, joining and allied technologies.

8. Special Processes Documented Information

The following regarding documented information is provided solely as guidance and is intended to illustrate examples of good practice. It is not mandatory and should be adapted as appropriate to suit the specific needs and context of the organisation.

8.1. Document Hierarchy

To ensure effective process control in accordance with EN9100 clause 8.5.1.2, documentation should follow established best practices and include key components detailed in the sections below.



8.2. Top-Level Special Processes Document

The top-level Special Processes document outlines the overarching framework, responsibilities and requirements for process control across the organisation. It should also include references to the following supporting documents.

8.3. Special Process List / Library

A centralised and controlled register should be maintained to identify all special processes conducted within the organisation. This register may be created as an Excel spreadsheet and stored on a shared platform such as SharePoint, or an equivalent system, to ensure accessibility and version control. Alternatively, the special process register may be incorporated into the top-level Special Process Operation, Validation & Process Control document, rather than maintained as a standalone file.

The register should include, at a minimum, the following columns: -

| Column | Description |
|--|--|
| Reference number | Sequential numbering with leading zeros (001) that identifies document series E.g. SP3-001 |
| Process name | Name of the special process E.g. Chemical Conversion Coating |
| Category | Category of the special process E.g. Chemical Processing |
| Location | Physical location of the process |
| Process owner | Named person that is responsible for the process and controls |
| Process SME | Named person that is the process subject matter expert (Can be same as owner or operator) |
| Special Process Operation, Validation & Process Control Document | Document Reference / hyperlink etc. |
| Special Process Control & Periodic Testing Record | Document Reference / hyperlink etc. |
| Special Process Control Flow Chart | Document Reference / hyperlink etc. |
| Audit Criteria Checklist(s) | Document Reference / hyperlink etc. |
| Programme(s) | Business area / programme / project that uses the process |
| Status | Under Development – In the process of being written or revised. Pending Approval – Awaiting sign-off. Active – In use and current. This includes for production or trial / pilot use Inactive – Temporarily inactive but may resume. Decommissioned – Officially retired and no longer maintained. |
| Notes | Any notes or comments |

8.4. Special Process Operation, Validation & Process Control Documentation

Each special process should be supported by a dedicated Special Process Operation, Validation & Process Control document. This document is intended to capture key information including the specific process control criteria and should include the following content: -

| Content | Description |
|--|--|
| Document number | Document reference that is listed in the special process list |
| Title | Name of the special process and "Operation, Validation & Process Control Documentation" |
| Associated Documents | List of documents E.g. Top-Level Special Processes Document, special processes list, specifications and standards including national, international and customer |
| Intent Description | Overview of the special process including process intent E.g. To coat aluminium alloy articles with a corrosion resistant coating. |
| Established Process Capabilities and Limitations | Overview of the process capability and limitations E.g. Size and weight limitations. Should include PFMEA (Process Failure Mode and Effect Analysis) output |
| Definition of criteria | This shall be the extraction of process controls, validation and revalidation criteria in a 'Table 1 Matrix' See below table |
| Approval of facilities and equipment & Determination of conditions to maintain the approval. | Description of the approved facilities (E.g. Temperature and humidity controls) and approved equipment list including consumables and calibration requirements |
| Qualification of persons. | Description of the training and qualification required to operate the process. Can include training matrix references |
| Requirements for documented information to be retained | Reference to Special Process Validation & Process Control (Periodic Testing) Record |
| Process Operation | Description of how the process is operated and / or reference to Special Process Flow Chart |
| Process control and validation / revalidation methods | This shall include methods or reference to methods used to maintain approval E.g. Chemical Analysis methods and / or external ISO17025 test laboratories used. |

8.5. Table 1 Matrix

This information may be included as an annex to the Special Process Operation, Validation & Process Control document, or alternatively, it can be provided as a reference to a spreadsheet stored on a shared platform such as SharePoint or a similar system. The table or matrix does not need to be titled "Table 1 Matrix" and may be named as appropriate to suit the organisation's conventions.

| Table Item | Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Process Operation | What element is being tested. E.g. Cleaner temperature |
| Control Specification | National / International specification or standard and customer process specification reference |
| Process control test / validation | Test to conduct |
| Type | Type of control E.g. Inspection, validation process control |
| Frequency | Frequency E.g. Weekly, monthly or per batch / shift |
| Test coupons | Description of test coupons E.g. size, material and quantity |
| Acceptance criteria | Test acceptance criteria E.g. 50-60°C include specification range and 'target' range if applicable |
| Test by | Qualification of person or external laboratory |

8.6. Process Control & Validation Records

Maintain complete and traceable records of process control activities, including routine monitoring and periodic (e.g., destructive) testing results.

| Table Item | Description |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Test No. | Reference number of the test if applicable |
| Sample date | Date / time of sample |
| Test date | Date / time of test |
| Document Reference | Job card / works order reference if applicable |
| Process Operation | What element is being tested. E.g. Cleaner temperature |
| Control Specification | National / International specification or standard and customer process specification reference |
| Process control test / validation | Test to conduct |
| Type | Type of control E.g. Inspection, validation process control |
| Frequency | Frequency E.g. Weekly, monthly or per batch / shift |
| Test coupons | Description of test coupons E.g. size, material and quantity |
| Acceptance criteria | Test acceptance criteria E.g. 50-60°C include specification range and 'target' range if applicable E.g. 52-58°C |
| Test equipment | Equipment used for test including calibration information |
| Test results | Result of the test |
| Test laboratory test report | Reference to and / or link to test laboratory test report or certificate if applicable |
| Status | Pass / Fail / Test Error - Clear indication of status |
| Test Data | Reference or link to test data such as electronic data, photos etc. (if applicable) |
| Notes | Any supporting information or observations E.g. Retest, action taken, additions, corrections. |
| Test by | Person conducting the test |
| Reviewed by | Person reviewing / signing off test (if required) |

8.7. Process Flowcharts and Job Cards

Each special process should be supported by a clear and easy-to-understand visual process flowchart. This flowchart should outline the key stages of the process, including critical control points, verification steps and any required approvals. Its purpose is to aid in standardisation, operator understanding and consistent execution of the process. The flowchart may be embedded directly within job cards or travelers, or maintained as a standalone document referenced within relevant operational documentation. The chosen format should ensure accessibility to all relevant personnel at the point of use and support effective process control. The following items should be included: -

| Item | Description |
|-------------------------|--|
| Op No | Operation Number - Sequence number |
| Process step | Name of the process step |
| Instruction | Specific instruction relating to the process stage |
| Control characteristic | Any control characteristic E.g. Time, temp, power setting, critical control characteristics and inspection / test or verification criteria |
| Record to be maintained | Verification, test or inspection results of control characteristics |
| Sign off or stamp | Sign off operation step as complete if applicable |

8.8. Audit Criteria Checklist

A clearly defined checklist should be developed for each special process to support both internal and external audits. This checklist serves as a practical tool to verify that all process validation, control measures and documented requirements are being consistently followed. It should cover key elements such as operator qualifications, equipment calibration and maintenance, adherence to approved procedures, record-keeping and the effectiveness of process controls. Checklists should be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect changes in standards, customer requirements, or internal procedures. The following items should be considered to be included into a check list: -

| Audit Item | Description |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Audit Title | Name of the audit |
| Audit Team Members | Names and roles of auditors conducting the audit |
| Auditee(s) / Contact Persons | Individuals being audited or responsible for the area/process being assessed |
| Date and Time | When the audit is scheduled or conducted |
| Location | Physical or virtual site being audited |
| Serial | Reference number of criteria |
| Element | Type of audited item: Documentation, equipment, process etc. |
| Clause/Reference | Reference to applicable standard or internal procedure |
| Audit Question or Requirement | Specific audit question or requirement being assessed |
| Evidence Required | Type of evidence to be gathered (e.g., documents, records, observations) |
| Conformity Status | Evaluation of compliance: Conforms, Yes, No or N/A |
| Objective Evidence Found | Notes on what was seen, heard, or reviewed that supports the conformity status |
| Comments or Observations | Additional remarks, context, or explanations |

8.8.1. Audit Report

An audit report serves as the formal output of an audit activity, providing a structured and objective assessment of the process against the checklist. The following elements are recommended for inclusion in an audit report:-

| Item | Description |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Audit Overview | Includes the audit title, objectives, date(s), auditors involved, and scope of the audit. |
| Process Audited | Details of the specific process reviewed, including location, process owner and related documents. |
| Audit Criteria | Lists the standards, procedures and requirements used as the basis for the audit |
| Summary of Findings | High-level summary of the audit results, including number of nonconformities, areas of concern, and general compliance status. |
| Detailed Audit Findings | In-depth description of each observation or nonconformity, including references to criteria, supporting evidence and severity classification. |
| Recommendations and Best Practices | Suggestions for improvement and identification of good practices observed during the audit |
| Root Cause Corrective Action Plan | Agreed actions to address nonconformities, including responsible persons and deadlines. |
| Follow-Up and Verification | Plan for future audits or checks to confirm that corrective actions have been implemented and are effective. |
| Sign-Off and Distribution | Signatures of auditor(s) and process owner(s), along with the date of report issuance and distribution list. |

9. SPG01 Summary and Issue Control

9.1. Summary

In summary, this guidebook serves as a critical resource for understanding, implementing and maintaining special processes in industries where product quality and reliability are paramount. It provides a structured approach to process validation, control and documentation, ensuring consistent output and minimizing risks associated with special processes.

9.2. Issue Control

| Date | Iss | Clause | Changes | By |
|-----------|-----|--------|--|-----------------|
| 05-Sep-22 | 1 | All | Special Processes Guidebook established | Konrad Burgoyne |
| 26-Feb-25 | 2 | 3 | Added PDCA for product validation and process verification | Konrad Burgoyne |
| | | 4 | Added PDCA for process validation and product verification | |
| | | 6 | Addition of additive manufacturing | |
| | | 6 | Addition of standard and specification examples | |
| | | 6 | Addition of special processes auditing information | |
| 17-Jul-25 | 3 | 5.2 | Addition of Three Tiers of Failure | Konrad Burgoyne |
| | | 7 | Associations, Groups, Programmes and Institutions | |
| | | 8 | Special Processes Documented Information best practise added | |

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