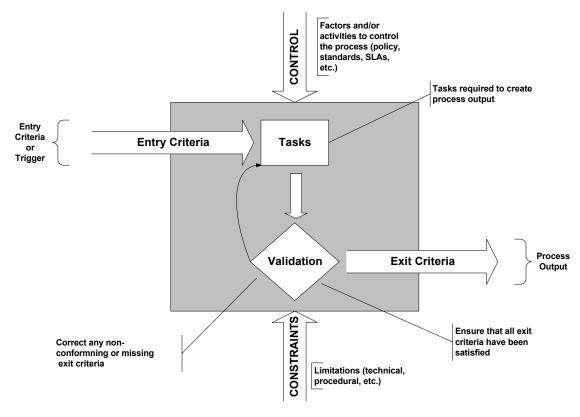
### **Process Model: ETVX**

The Entry-Task-Validation-Exit (ETVX) model views processes within the context of:

- 1. Inputs or triggers
- 2. Tasks (also called *procedures*)
- 3. Controls
- 4. Constraints
- 5. Output

The following illustration depicts process components.



# **Entry Criteria: Inputs and Triggers**

Processes are initiated by either an input or a trigger. An input is usually an output from a preceding process; a trigger is an event that invokes the process. In either case, input or trigger, an associated list of entry criteria must be satisfied in order for the process to commence.

# **Tasks**

Tasks (also called procedures) are the action components of a process. In the ETVX model tasks follow a sequence that has a validation step. This step ensures that the process does not pass its output to another process or terminate until all exit criteria have been satisfactorily met.

### **Validation**

This is a process checkpoint that occurs after the task(s) associated with the process have been completed. This checkpoint is also known as a quality gate - its purpose is to ensure that the task(s) have produced an output that meets specifications and/or requirements of the process. A failure at the validation checkpoint generally requires re-performing the process tasks.

### **Exit Criteria**

All conditions that must be present and/or satisfied before a process can successfully terminate. Closely coupled to exit criteria is the output of the process itself; i.e., what the process was designed to produce. All processes produce an output.

### **Controls**

Process controls are limits that have been purposely placed on the process to prevent undesirable outcomes. Examples include:

- 1. Policies.
- 2. Checkpoints.
- 3. Audits and integrity checking (i.e., cyclic redundancy checks, etc.)
- 4. Error detection and correction processes.

## **Constraints**

Limitations imposed on a process are called constraints. Examples include technical capabilities, available time frames, resources, transmission speeds, etc.

The key difference between a control and a constraint is that a control is *designed into* the process to produce or effect a desirable outcome, while a constraint is a limitation to the process (or environment) that *may* impact on the effectiveness and/or efficiency of the process.