

Special Processes

In keeping with industry standards, GDMS identifies Special Processes as any process for which verification cannot be performed by visual inspection or non-destructive testing. The criteria for identifying applicable special processes will be conveyed by the GDMS design and acquisition documentation, typically the drawing/specification. These criteria will provide specific standards for verification; in other words, references “Welding to conform to AWS D17.1, CL C, GP IV” and “Mark per MIL-STD-13231, GP II, .12 high character” are special processes, while “weld” and “mark” are not.

Any supplier delivering material to GDMS must review design or acquisition documentation provided by GDMS (e.g., print, drawing, specification) to determine if special processes are required to produce material conforming to all requirements. If one or more of these special processes is required, the supplier is responsible for ensuring they are approved by GDMS to complete the process PRIOR TO shipment of any product. If the supplier will not be performing the special process, but will be outsourcing it to a sub-tier supplier, it is the supplier’s responsibility to ensure the sub-tier processor is approved.

The list of approved processors for each special process is maintained by GDMS, and is available for review at <https://gmissionsystems.com/suppliers/terms-conditions/>. If a processor is not approved for a specific special process in question, they must complete and submit a copy of the Supplier Information Request (QA-TMP-077) document to GDMS-SpecProc@gd-ms.com.

Preferred methodology for justification of approval is 3rd-party certification, either AS9100 certification of the processor’s QMS or NADCAP certification listing the specific special process(es) under consideration. Alternative methods include: Process audit review by GDMS Quality/Supplier Engineering personnel; lab evaluation of samples (by GDMS, where available, or otherwise by a 3rd-party laboratory); or, GDMS customer direction. In the event that the processor in question is a sub-tier to the Purchase Order supplier, and the direct supplier to GDMS is certified to AS9100, ISO9001, or equivalent, the supplier may certify that they undertake all requisite actions to control special processes performed by the sub-tier processor.