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STANDARDS & GUIDANCE BRIEF · UNITED STATES · INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Nadcap

National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program

DOCUMENT	QES-WP-135, Rev B	DATE	November 7, 2026
ISSUED BY	Performance Review Institute (PRI)	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	Audit criteria (AC7000 series) by commodity, revised continuously	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	Aerospace & Defense	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-nadcap.html

CURRENT EDITION Additive manufacturing is now a Nadcap commodity, with criteria for metallic powder bed fusion (AC7131/1, effective August 3, 2025) and directed energy deposition, and further methods following.

What It Covers

Industry-run accreditation of special processes such as heat treating, chemical processing, coatings, nondestructive testing, welding, materials testing and additive manufacturing, audited by commodity against prime-contractor criteria.

Who It Applies To

Suppliers performing special processes for the aerospace primes that subscribe to Nadcap, who generally require accreditation before purchase.

Key Requirements

- A quality system audit (often satisfied by AS9100) plus a commodity audit for each special process.
- Job audits that trace real work from the order through the process to the release.
- Findings closed through a formal corrective action cycle before accreditation is granted.
- Accreditation periods of 12 months at first, extended for a strong record.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- Process control records and pyrometry or equipment qualification for a recent job.
- Operator qualifications for the special process.

Where Systems Fall Short

- Procedures that do not match the customer specification line by line.
- Corrective actions that answer the finding but not its cause, which delays accreditation.

How QES helps. Pre-audits by commodity, and corrective action responses that close the first time. See the gap assessment: qesisbest.com/services.html#gap-assessment · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. Performance Review Institute — Nadcap — p-r-i.org; 3D Printing Industry — Nadcap's new additive manufacturing audit framework (June 2026) — 3dprintingindustry.com/news/amaa-2026-nadcaps-new-aerospace-audit-framework-252380.

A summary for orientation, prepared by Quality Excellence Services. It does not reproduce or replace the standard or regulation: read the official text, which governs. Not legal advice.