9125 Standard

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General questions about the standard

1.1   What is Non-Deliverable Software?

Software that is not delivered to the end-user of a deliverable product under a contract or agreement is considered non-deliverable software. It may be used in the design, manufacture, inspection, test, acceptance, or calibration processes for deliverable products or services.

Non-deliverable software can be internally developed or obtained from an external provider to meet requirements of the organization.

1.2   What is the benefit of 9125?

The establishment of common requirements for use at all levels of the supply-chain by organizations around the world is intended to result in improved quality, schedule, and cost performance by the reduction or elimination of organization unique requirements and wider application of good practices.

Non-deliverable software can have a significant impact on an organization's ability to produce acceptable product. Un-verified and/or uncontrolled non-deliverable software can lead to critical failures, cost over-runs, and schedule slips.

1.3   Is 9125 only for Aerospace?

9125 is not only for Aerospace applications although it has been specifically developed and internationally harmonized for the general-purpose use of the Aviation, Space and Defense communities. It can be used to ensure quality for systems on military combat and transport ships, remotely operated vehicles as well as communications and navigation systems and associated sensor systems. This standard could benefit any organization that utilizes non-deliverable software used in the manufacture or verification of deliverable products.

1.4   Can an organization be certified to 9125? How is 9125 verified?

Currently, there is no certification method for 9125. Compliance to 9125 may be self-assessed and/or audited by another stakeholder organization. Typically, 9125 will be a contractual requirement which should also define the method of assessment.

1.5   Why are topics such as Internal Audit, Information Security, Risk Management, or Configuration Management not comprehensively addressed by AS9125?

AS9125 does not delve deep into certain topics because they are addressed elsewhere. The extent of coverage in AS9125 is contingent upon the unique requirements relevant to the application of AS9125. For instance:

There are few distinct requirements for internal audit of non-deliverable software in AS9125. And that is because internal audit processes established by an organization's 9100 or ISO 9001-based QMS are adequate. With a minor exception under "Design and Development Planning", no further elaboration is needed within AS9125.

Similarly, Information Security is covered minimally in AS9125 since most of its aspects are already addressed in the higher-level QMS standards.

1.6   How should use of the term "*as applicable*" be interpreted, especially when coupled with a "shall" statement?

The term "*as applicable*" allows an organization to adapt AS9125 to their unique environment while still adhering to the principles of the standard.

For example, in the "Design and Development Inputs" section, it identifies four items (a through d) that shall be included as requirements for the non-deliverable software. One of those items, "system and interface requirements", would not be applicable for non-deliverable software operating as a stand-alone item. So, the "*as applicable*" term is added to accommodate that possibility while still maintaining compliance. However, if the non-deliverable software does indeed interface with another system, then those related requirements must be included.

Questions about the relationship to other standards

2.1   What is the relationship between 9125 to ARP9005?

The 9125 standard supersedes and modernizes the Aerospace Recommended Practice ARP9005, "Aerospace Guidance for Non-Deliverable Software", published in June 2005.

ARP9005 was an America's-only guidance for the handling and management of non-deliverable software. 9125 expands applicability to international use by aligning with the IAQG standards framework.

2.2 What is the relationship between 9125 and 9115?

Although the standards both address software, there is no dependency between them. 9125 applies to non-deliverable software whereas 9115 applies to deliverable software. 9115 is a Quality Management System (QMS) standard, addressing all elements of developing software that will be delivered. 9125 was developed to address non-deliverable software used in the manufacture or verification of deliverable products but does not define a full QMS.

2.3 What is the relationship between 9125 and 9100?

9125 focuses solely on the unique requirements that pertain to non-deliverable software. Operational processes not covered in this standard (e.g., Risk Management) are addressed by the organization's Quality Management System (QMS), based on 9100 and/or ISO 9001.

Although compliance to 9100 is not required to satisfy 9125, a 9100-compliant QMS would support a more effective implementation of 9125.

2.4 What is the relationship between 9125 and DO-178?

There is no dependency between 9125 and DO-178. 9125 applies to non-deliverable software and DO-178 provides guidance to develop software in airborne systems and equipment. If non-deliverable software is used in the development or verification of software in airborne systems or equipment, then some elements of DO-178 may be invoked and both standards could be applied. (E.g., DO-178 Section 11.15)

2.5 What is the relationship between 9125 and DO-330?

There is no dependency between 9125 and DO-330. 9125 applies to non-deliverable software and DO-330 provides guidance to qualify tools utilized in the development of software in airborne systems and equipment. If non-deliverable software is qualified for such use, then DO-330 can be invoked and both standards could apply.