

Direct Ship - Recommended Practices for Aerospace Companies

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1. SCOPE:

Limited to the Aerospace industry where an approved manufacturer requests a supplier to ship an article against the approved manufacturer's quality system directly to a customer. The direct ship process is not required or applicable to standard parts or military parts. In this process the approved manufacturer is responsible for assurance that the article conforms to Type Design information.

1.1 Purpose:

This Aerospace Recommended Practice (ARP) provides guidance to an approved manufacturer, their suppliers, and customers when an approved manufacturer requests a supplier to ship an article against the approved manufacturer's purchase document directly to a customer, commonly known as "Direct Ship".

2. RELATED MATERIAL:

These include but are not limited:

FAA Publications

- a. Eligibility, Quality, and Identification of Aeronautical Replacement Parts, FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 20-62
- b. Production Certificates, FAA AC 21-1
- c. Supplier Surveillance Procedures, FAA AC 21-20
- d. Detecting and Reporting Suspected Unapproved Parts, FAA AC 21-29

3. DEFINITIONS:

APPROVED MANUFACTURER: A manufacturer that is responsible for the quality of an article and has obtained the right to use a design from the design approval holder (may be the same entity). This is the holder of a Production Certificate (PC), Approved Production Inspection System (APIS), Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), or Technical Standard Order (TSO) authorization or any other production approval issued by any National Airworthiness Authority.

ARTICLE: Any material, part, product, component, assembly or appliance which is used in a type certificated product.

CUSTOMER: The recipient of a direct ship article (owner/operator, repair station, distributor, etc)

DELEGATED INSPECTION: The delegation of inspection authority to a supplier on behalf of the approved manufacturer.

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3. (Continued):

DIRECT SHIP AUTHORIZATION: The written authorization granted by an approved manufacturer to an approved supplier to ship articles directly to a customer, without the articles being processed through the approved manufacturer's own facility. The direct ship authorization may be limited in scope. Some examples of limitations include the:

- a. Part number(s)
- b. Time period
- c. Customer(s)

DIRECT SHIP DECLARATION: A written statement from the supplier that accompanies a direct ship article stating the article was produced under the terms of the approved manufacturer's production approval.

PRODUCT: An aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller.

STANDARD PART: A part manufactured in compliance with an established U.S. government or industry accepted specification that includes design, manufacturing, and uniform identification requirements.

SUPPLIER: The furnisher of articles or related services, at any tier, to an approved manufacturer.

4. DIRECT SHIP REQUIREMENTS:

4.1 General:

The direct ship process involves an approved manufacturer, a supplier, and a customer. In a chronological flow, the customer requests an approved manufacturer provide an article and delineates any special requirements. The approved manufacturer determines that the article is to be ordered / produced / delivered from a supplier and requests the supplier to ship the article directly to the customer. The contracts are between the customer and the approved manufacturer and again between the approved manufacturer and the supplier. (see Figure 1)

In some cases the approved manufacturer allows the customer to buy directly from the supplier. In those cases the supplier should obtain permission from the approved manufacturer for this arrangement.

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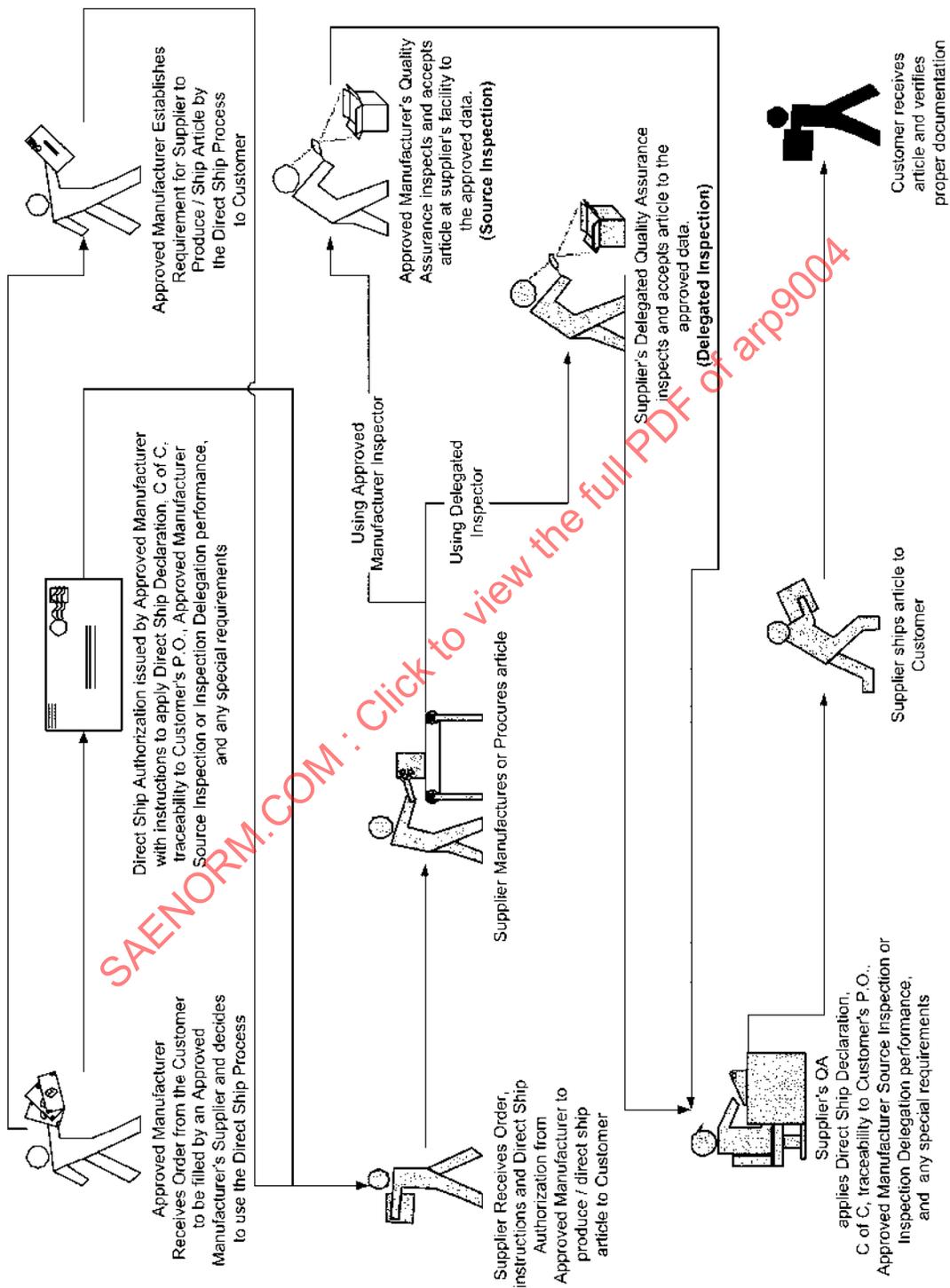


FIGURE 1 - Direct Ship Flow

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4.2 Approved Manufacturer:

4.2.1 Procedures: An approved manufacturer that intends to issue direct ship authorization to a supplier must have approved quality procedures that will compensate for the absence of inspections normally conducted at the approved manufacturer's facility. Compensating factors shall include onsite evaluations of the supplier and the inspection of the article as either:

- a. Source inspection performed by the approved manufacturer
or
- b. Inspection by the supplier under a delegated inspection authority from the approved manufacturer

4.2.2 Direct Ship Authorization: The approved manufacturer shall provide direct ship authorization to a supplier.

4.2.3 Records: The approved manufacturer shall issue and maintain records of direct ship authorization and make them available to regulatory authorities upon request.

4.2.4 Flowdown of Direct Ship Requirements to Suppliers: The approved manufacturer shall obligate the supplier to:

- a. Direct ship the article
- b. Meet any special customer requirements that are accepted by the approved manufacturer
- c. Maintain evidence that the supplier has direct ship authorization from the approved manufacturer
- d. Maintain evidence of direct shipments made on the behalf of the approved manufacturer
- e. Provide a signed direct ship declaration with the shipment
- f. Provide a signed/stamped statement of conformance certifying that the article conforms to approved data with the shipment
- g. Provide traceability with the shipment to the customer purchase request
- h. Provide evidence with the shipment that acceptance / inspection has been accomplished by the approved manufacturer or through delegated inspection authority
 - When delegated inspection is used, provide statement with the shipment that delegation of inspection authority has been granted by the approved manufacturer and that the inspection was performed on behalf of the approved manufacturer.

4.2.5 Special Considerations for Foreign Customers: An approved manufacturer must ensure the requirements of the importing country will be met prior to authorizing direct shipment to a customer located in a foreign country.