46.404 Government contract quality assurance for acquisitions at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.

- (a) In determining the type and extent of Government contract quality assurance to be required for contracts at or below the *simplified acquisition threshold*, the *contracting officer shall* consider the criticality of application of the *supplies* or services, the amount of possible losses, and the likelihood of uncontested replacement of defective work (see $\underline{46.202-2}$).
- (b) When the conditions in $\underline{46.202-2}$ (b) apply, the following policies *shall* govern:
- (1) Unless a special situation exists, the Government *shall* inspect contracts at or below the *simplified acquisition threshold* at destination and only for type and kind; quantity; damage; operability (if readily determinable); and preservation, packaging, packing, and marking, if applicable.
- (2) Special situations may require more detailed quality assurance and the use of a standard inspection or higher-level contract quality requirement. These situations include those listed in 46.402 and contracts for items having critical applications.
- (3) Detailed Government *inspection may* be limited to those characteristics that are special or likely to cause harm to personnel or property. When repetitive purchases of the same item are made from the same manufacturer with a history of defect-free work, Government *inspection may* be reduced to a periodic check of occasional purchases.

Parent topic: Subpart 46.4 - Government Contract Quality Assurance