Defense Technology

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An Overview Of Defense Technology Testing Standards

Part 1/3

Defense standards play an essential role in the deployment and use of new and advanced technologies. Standards provide important common criteria that address key construction, safety, and performance aspects of critical electronic systems and devices.

In doing so, standards not only help to ensure the quality and reliability of these products, they also foster interoperability and interchangeability between compatible technologies, thereby building a foundation for their widespread use in diverse applications.

Defense standards applicable to U.S. DoD procurement practices include several different types of documents. U.S. Department of Defense Manual 4120.24 provides definitions for these various document types, as follows:

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Defense specifications

(MIL-SPEC)

Defense specifications establish requirements for military-unique products or materials, or for commercial products or materials that include modifications to address military-unique requirements.

Defense standards

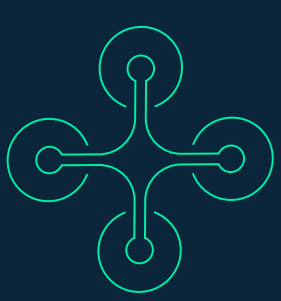
(MIL-STD)

Defense standards establish requirements for military-unique processes, procedures, practices, or methods, or commercial processes, procedures, practices, or methods that have been modified to address military-unique requirements. Specific defense standards address issues related to product interface, design criteria, manufacturing processes, standard practices, and test methods.

Defense handbook

(MIL-HDBK)

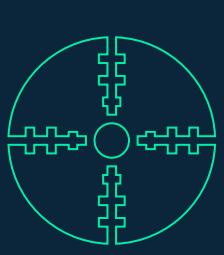
Defense handbooks do not specify mandatory requirements. Instead, they provide guidance on procedural, technical, design information, or selection or application criteria for products, processes, practices, and methods.



Performance specification

(MIL-PRF)

Performance specifications define the functional requirements, operating environments, and interface characteristics for military-unique products or materials, or commercial products that have been modified to address military-unique requirements. Specifications focus on the required results without specifying methods for achieving those results.



Detail specifications

(MIL-DTL)

Detail specifications state design requirements, such as how a product should be constructed or fabricated, the materials to be used, or how a requirement is to be achieved.

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