

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 [46.202-2](#)).

(b) When the conditions in [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](#)