

## **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](#)