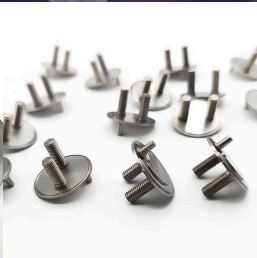


THE ASW GUIDE TO

NADCAP ACCREDITATION AND AEROSPACE WELDING EXCELLENCE



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INTRODUCTION

ASW's commitment to excellence in aerospace manufacturing is grounded in its dedication to maintaining the highest industry standards. Among these standards, Nadcap accreditation plays a critical role in shaping both operational systems and company culture. Much like ASW, Nadcap originated from humble beginnings and has grown into an essential benchmark for suppliers in the aerospace and defense industries. Established with the involvement of leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), including Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and GE Aviation, Nadcap ensures that suppliers consistently meet stringent industry requirements and operate with a documented commitment to quality.

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the Nadcap program, its role in the aerospace supply chain, and how ASW integrates its rigorous standards into every aspect of welding and manufacturing operations.

THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW INSTITUTE

The Performance Review Institute (PRI) administers the Nadcap accreditation process. Founded through collaboration among aerospace OEMs, PRI acts as a mediator between primes and suppliers, ensuring that audits are fair, effective, and mutually beneficial. The organization maintains a structured system that includes the Supplier Support Committee (SSC), Task Groups, and the Nadcap Management Council (NMC). The SSC gathers input from suppliers to improve the audit process, while Task Groups assign industry-specific expert auditors to evaluate specialized processes such as welding. The NMC and administrative staff oversee the integrity and consistency of the program.

PRI's not-for-profit, industry-driven structure has established Nadcap as a reliable and respected standard, ensuring that both subscribers and suppliers benefit from enhanced quality, reduced audit redundancy, and continuous improvement across the aerospace industry.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NADCAP ACCREDITATION

Aerospace manufacturing demands precision, repeatability, and strict adherence to safety standards. For welding suppliers, Nadcap accreditation serves as a critical indicator of capability, demonstrating that processes are controlled, repeatable, and aligned with customer-specific requirements. By achieving Nadcap accreditation, a supplier provides purchasing teams and OEMs with confidence that their products will meet the rigorous expectations of the aerospace and defense sectors.

Accreditation is not merely a formality; it requires a comprehensive demonstration of process compliance, personnel competency, and procedural documentation. Suppliers must undergo multiple layers of evaluation, including internal audits, on-site expert assessment, and Task Group review, to achieve certification. This rigorous process ensures that Nadcap-accredited companies consistently deliver reliable, high-quality results.



ASW'S APPROACH TO QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE

ASW maintains both Nadcap and AS9100 certifications, ensuring excellence in specialized processes and overall quality management. Internal audits are conducted regularly to simulate PRI assessments, identify potential gaps, and refine procedures prior to official audits. Employees receive ongoing training to remain current with evolving standards, ensuring that each team member can perform their work to the highest level of competence.

Documentation and traceability are central to ASW's operations. Welding schedules, test results, and inspection records are meticulously maintained, allowing for comprehensive verification during audits. This dual focus on process control and quality management enables ASW to consistently meet and exceed the expectations of aerospace OEMs and purchasing teams.

THE NADCAP ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Achieving Nadcap accreditation is a structured and thorough process. Suppliers must prepare by implementing compliant systems and performing internal audits to ensure readiness. Once prepared, an official audit is requested through the PRI website, and an expert auditor is assigned. The audit itself includes a review of submitted checklists, examination of documentation, and observation of on-site operations.

Following the audit, findings are addressed through root cause analysis and corrective actions, which are submitted for approval by PRI's Technical Staff. Only after successfully addressing all findings is accreditation granted. Maintaining Nadcap certification requires ongoing adherence to standards and demonstrates a supplier's continuous commitment to quality and operational excellence.

ASW WELDING CAPABILITIES

ASW provides specialized resistance welding services that are essential to aerospace and defense manufacturing. ASW specializes in both spot and seam welding. Spot welds form a single fused point, while seam welds create overlapping lines of welds, offering both strength and consistency. Each weld is tested and documented through destructive and non-destructive methods to ensure it meets customer and industry standards.

All welding processes are rigorously monitored and audited. Machines are verified for accuracy, schedules are controlled, and inspection protocols are strictly followed. Materials, tooling, and laboratory conditions are maintained under precise specifications to ensure repeatable results. By adhering to these stringent controls, ASW provides purchasing teams with confidence in both the quality and reliability of every weld produced.



INSPECTION AND PROCESS CONTROLS

ASW's inspection protocols encompass all aspects of welding and process verification. Machines are calibrated and qualified for each job, materials are properly handled and certified, and welds are inspected for strength and consistency. The inspection environment is controlled for temperature, lighting, and authorized access, ensuring the integrity of the process. Personnel responsible for evaluations are highly trained and tested to maintain adherence to both Nadcap and AS9100 standards.

CONCLUSION

Nadcap accreditation represents more than compliance; it embodies a supplier's dedication to precision, reliability, and continuous improvement. At ASW, Nadcap and AS9100 certifications underpin every aspect of operations, from welding procedures to quality management systems. By maintaining these standards, ASW provides aerospace OEMs and suppliers with confidence in the company's ability to deliver high-quality, repeatable results.

This commitment to excellence ensures that ASW remains a trusted partner in the aerospace and defense industries, delivering services that meet the most demanding technical requirements and supporting the advancement of aerospace manufacturing worldwide.