



DoD INSTRUCTION 4715.15

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SYSTEMS

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Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5134.01, the February 10, 2003 Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, and the July 13, 2018 Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, and the guidance in DoD Directive 4715.1E, this issuance:

- Establishes policy to incorporate environmental quality systems into DoD activities and programs involving the collection, management, and use of environmental data.
- Assigns responsibilities for the DoD Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW).
- Authorizes the DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).
- Assigns responsibilities for the management and implementation of the DoD Advanced Geophysical Classification Accreditation Program (DAGCAP).

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance:

a. Applies to:

(1) OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoD Components”).

(2) DoD activities and programs involving the collection, management, and use of environmental data, supporting all applicable environmental laws and regulations, at DoD operations, activities, and installations worldwide, including government-owned/contractor-operated facilities and formerly used defense sites.

b. Does not apply to:

(1) Contractor-owned facilities that are not on real property owned and controlled by DoD.

(2) Radiological data collected under the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program.

1.2. POLICY. It is DoD policy to:

a. Incorporate environmental data quality systems into activities and programs involving the collection and use of environmental data in accordance with the American Society for Quality/American National Standards Institute Standard E4-2014, the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission Standard 17025:2005, and the February 10, 2003 Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum.

b. Establish the DoD ELAP for the collection of definitive data used in support of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

c. Establish the DAGCAP for organizations using the advanced geophysical classification process at munitions response sites.

1.3. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 3. This change is administrative and updates references and organizational symbols to reflect the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, pursuant to the July 13, 2018 Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SUSTAINMENT (ASD(S)). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the ASD(S):

- a. Oversees the use of quality environmental data for the environmental, safety, and occupational health programs.
- b. Develops guidance to implement environmental quality systems.
- c. Coordinates the consistent implementation of environmental quality systems within the DoD through the EDQW.
- d. In consultation with the affected Military Departments, represents DoD in resolving intergovernmental and interdepartmental policy disagreements concerning environmental data quality issues.
- e. Oversees the consistent implementation of the ELAP and DAGCAP.
- f. Approves the charter and the chair of the EDQW.

2.2. DOD COMPONENT HEADS. The DoD Component heads:

- a. Implement environmental quality systems for DoD Component-level activities and operations related to environmental data collection and use.
- b. Establish programs within their respective Components to monitor the implementation of environmental quality systems in accordance with the:
 - (1) Consolidated Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories.
 - (2) Uniform Federal Policy for Implementing Environmental Quality Systems.
 - (3) Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans.
- c. Plan, program, and budget for the implementation of environmental quality systems, consistent with environmental laws and regulations, DoD guidance, and fiscal policies.
- d. Participate in environmental management reviews as requested by the ASD(S).
- e. Conduct periodic quality assurance reviews on environmental data collection activities and implement corrective actions for issues identified.
- f. Use environmental laboratories accredited in accordance with the DoD ELAP for the collection of definitive data in support of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

- g. Use organizations accredited in accordance with the DAGCAP to perform advanced geophysical classification at munitions response sites.
- h. Work with all appropriate regulatory authorities and land management agencies, including those representing federal, State, Indian tribal, and local governments to improve the planning, collection, and use of environmental data.

2.3. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.2., the Secretaries of the Military Departments:

- a. Provide a senior military or civilian government official with the authority to recommend resources and policy to their respective Military Department to support the EDQW.
- b. Provide resources to support the EDQW.
- c. In coordination with the ASD(S), develop guidance to implement environmental quality systems.

2.4. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraphs 2.2. and 2.3., the Secretary of the Navy:

- a. In coordination with DoD Component heads, develops a charter outlining functions and responsibilities for the EDQW and nominates an EDQW chair for approval by the ASD(S).
- b. Plans, programs, and budgets for activities necessary to support operation of the EDQW and oversight of the DoD ELAP.
- c. Provides lead support to ASD(S) in the development of guidance to implement environmental quality systems and other issuances supporting this issuance and in accordance with DoD Instruction 5025.01.
- d. Coordinates EDQW recommendations with DoD Components before presentation to the ASD(S).
- e. Identifies, discusses, and resolves emerging DoD environmental data quality, sampling, and testing issues with the appropriate DoD Components and ASD(S).

SECTION 3: PROGRAMS

3.1. ELAP. The ELAP is a unified DoD program that uses accrediting bodies through which commercial laboratories can voluntarily demonstrate competency and document conformance to both DoD and international standards for environmental sampling and testing. The ELAP is more fully described in Part 188 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations and DoD Manual 4715.25.

3.2. DAGCAP. The DAGCAP is a unified program for organizations performing advanced geophysical classification to demonstrate competency and document conformance to minimum quality systems requirements based on the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission Standard 17025:2005, established by the April 11, 2016 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment Memorandum. Accreditation is achieved by:

- a. Assessment of the organization's quality system.
- b. A successful demonstration of capabilities performed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground DAGCAP test site.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ASD(S)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment
DAGCAP	DoD Advanced Geophysical Classification Accreditation Program
EDQW	Environmental Data Quality Workgroup
ELAP	Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

G.2. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this issuance.

advanced geophysical classification. A process for determining whether a buried metal object is a target of interest by using a geophysical sensor system to collect high-quality geophysical data on detected metallic objects buried in the ground and interpret this data with computer-based models to estimate the size, shape, and other physical attributes of the buried object. Classification algorithms are performed with this information to determine whether the buried object is likely a munition or harmless debris.

definitive data. Analytical data of known quality, concentration, and level of uncertainty. The levels of quality and uncertainty of the analytical data are consistent with the requirements for the decision to be made. Suitable for final decision making.

EDQW. A DoD working group with representatives from the Army, Navy, and Air Force whose primary focus is to develop and recommend DoD policy and guidance on environmental sampling, laboratory testing operations, and data quality.

environmental data. Any measurement or information that describes environmental processes, locations, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology.

quality. Encompasses utility, objectivity, and integrity:

Utility refers to the usefulness of the information to the intended users.

Objectivity focuses on whether the disseminated information is being presented in an accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased manner, and as a matter of substance, is accurate, reliable, and unbiased.

Integrity refers to security—the protection of information from unauthorized access or revision, to ensure that the information is not compromised through corruption or falsification.

quality system. A structured and documented management system describing the policies, objectives, principles, organizational authority, responsibilities, accountability, and implementation plan of an organization for ensuring quality in its work processes, products, and services.

real property. Defined in DoD Instruction 4165.14.

REFERENCES

- American Society for Quality/American National Standards Institute Standard E4-2014, “Quality Management Systems for Environmental Information and Technology Programs – Requirements with Guidance for Use”¹
- Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment Memorandum, “Department of Defense Advanced Geophysical Classification Accreditation Program,” April 11, 2016²
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 188
- Department of Defense and Department of Energy, “Consolidated Quality Systems Manual (QSM) for Environmental Laboratories,” current version³
- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Ensuring the Quality of Information Disseminated to the Public by the Department of Defense,” February 10, 2003
- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Establishment of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment,” July 13, 2018
- DoD Directive 4715.1E, “Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH),” March 19, 2005
- DoD Directive 5134.01, “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)),” December 9, 2005, as amended
- DoD Defense Technical Information Center ADA 395303, “Uniform Federal Policy for Implementing Environmental Quality Systems: Evaluating, Assessing, and Documenting Environmental Data Collection/Use and Technology Programs,” current version⁴
- DoD Instruction 4165.14, “Real Property Inventory (RPI) and Forecasting,” January 17, 2014
- DoD Instruction 5025.01, “DoD Issuances Program,” June 6, 2014, as amended
- DoD Manual 4715.25, “DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP),” April 6, 2017
- International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission ISO/IEC 17025:2005, “General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories,” May 2005⁵
- United States Environmental Protection Agency, “Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans,” various dates⁶

¹ Copies may be purchased from the Internet at <http://webstore.ansi.org/>

² Copies may be obtained from the Internet at <http://www.denix.osd.mil/edqw/home>

³ Copies may be obtained from the Internet at <http://www.denix.osd.mil/edqw/home/what-s-new/unassigned/qsm-version-5-0-final/>

⁴ Copies may be obtained from the Internet at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/ufp_v2_final.pdf

⁵ Copies may be obtained from the Internet at http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=39883

⁶ Copies may be obtained from the Internet at <https://www.epa.gov/fedfac/assuring-quality-federal-cleanups>