

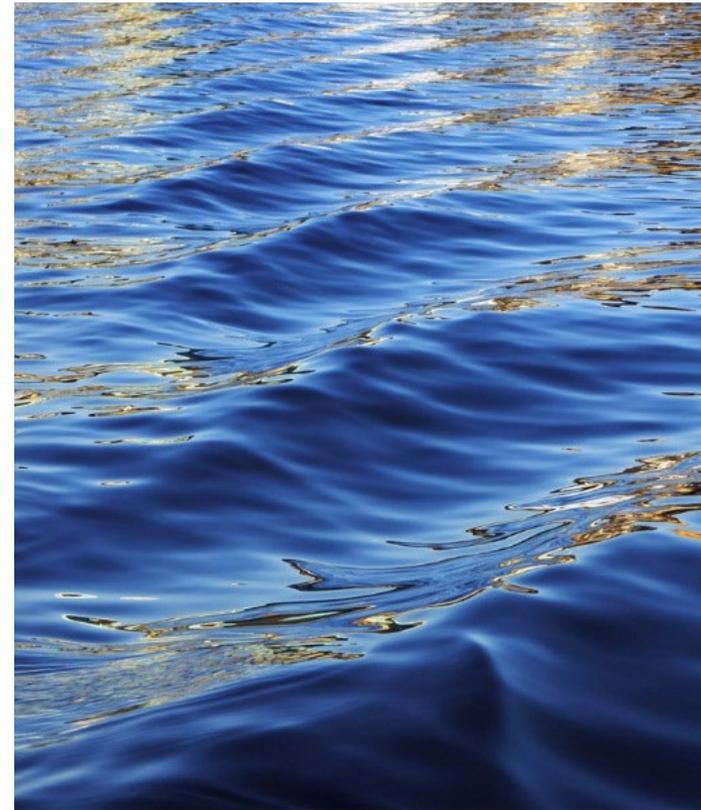


U.S. EPA - Region 6 Quality Assurance Program

Updates to the QAPP and QMP Standards

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Topics to Review

- EPA Quality Program Mission Statement
- Why QA? EPA Quality Program and Standards
- Program Participants
- EPA Quality Terms
- **What's New EPA Quality Standards**
- Contact Information



EPA Quality Program Mission

- EPA is committed to the collection, production, evaluation, and use of environmental information of known and documented quality.
- Incorporating quality assurance improves EPA's policy-making and analysis.
- A quality program helps drive reliable, cost-effective, and legally defensible decisions all while preventing unacceptable environmental and human health risks to individuals and communities.



Why QA? EPA Quality Program and Standards



EPA Quality Program

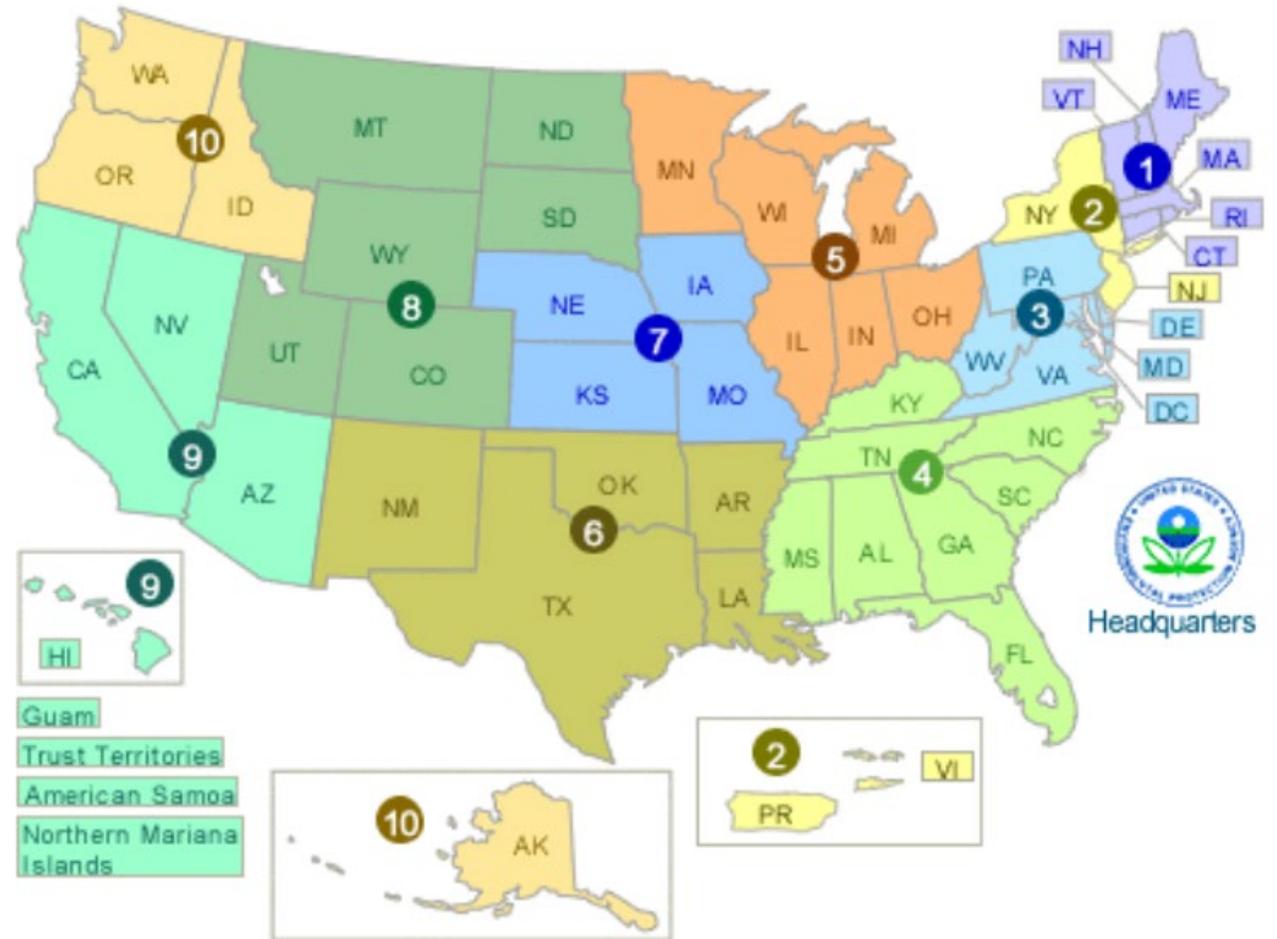
- The primary goal of EPA's Quality Program is to ensure that our environmental information are of known and documented **quantity** and **quality** to support the intended use of the information.

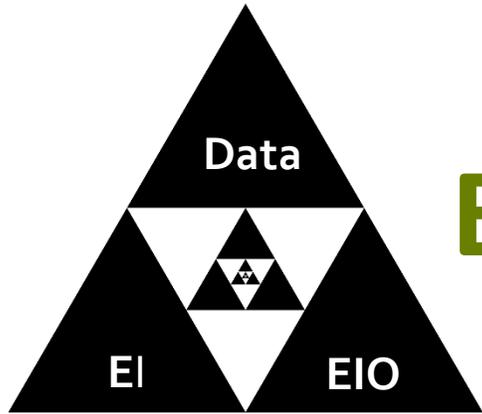
Quality Assurance Standards

- Allows for continuous project improvements
- Identify and resolve program issues
 - Minimizes project setbacks
 - Maximizes funding
 - Ensures program requirements are met (EPA and Non-EPA)

Program Participants

All **EPA organizations** performing environmental information operations and **non-EPA organizations** performing environmental information operations on behalf of EPA are required to participate in the EPA Agency-wide Quality Program.





EPA Quality Terms

- **Environmental Information (EI)**- Includes data and information that describe environmental processes or conditions which support EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment.
- **Environmental Information Operations (EIO)**- A collective term for work performed to collect, produce, evaluate, or use environmental information, and the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology.
- **Data** - quantitative or qualitative representation of values, facts, observations, or ideas in a formalized manner capable of being transmitted, processed, stored, analyzed, interpreted, and/or communicated by some process, whether on paper or in electronic form.

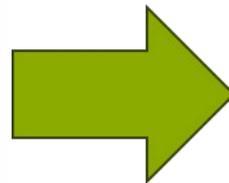
What's New: Quality Management Plan (QMP)

March 2001

- EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (EPA QA/R-2)
- Previously awarded grants will continue to use QA/R-2, unless amended activities added

March 2023

- Quality Management Plan Standard
- Applies to all new and supplemental grant awards issued on or after February 17, 2023



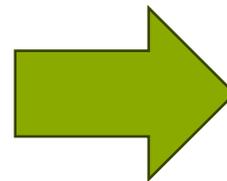
What's New: Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

March 2001

- EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans EPA QA/R-5
- Previously awarded grants will continue to use QA/R-5, unless amended activities added

July 2023

- Quality Assurance Project Plan Standard
- Applies to all new and supplemental grant awards issued on or after August 31, 2023



What's New - Directive Format

March 2001

March 2024

United States Environmental Protection Agency | Office of Environmental Information | EPA/406-01-002 March 2001 | Washington, DC 20460

EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans

EPA QA/R-2

Quality

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EPA QA/R-2 iii Final March 2001



EPA IT/IM DIRECTIVE STANDARD

Directive No. CIO 2105-S-01.1

Issued by the EPA Chief Information Officer, Pursuant to Delegation 1-19

Quality Management Plan Standard

1. PURPOSE

This Standard supports the implementation of EPA's Environmental Information Quality Policy and Environmental Information Quality Procedure¹.

All EPA organizations performing environmental information operations and non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations on behalf of EPA are required to participate in the EPA Agency-wide Quality Program. EPA's Quality Program supports EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment and to ensure environmental information operations products and services are of known and documented quality for their intended use(s).

The Quality Management Plan (QMP) describes an organization's Quality Program. It also documents how the organization structures its Quality Program including descriptions of its internal quality procedures for implementing and assessing the effectiveness of the program; criteria for and areas of application; and roles, responsibilities, and authorities. The QMP must also document all technical activities to be performed under the Quality Program and how the program will integrate quality assurance (QA), quality control (QC), and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) into all its environmental information operations.

The requirements described in this Standard are consistent with the principles in the American Society for Quality (ASQ)/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) E4.2014 (R2019), Quality management systems for environmental information and technology programs—Requirements with guidance for use.

2. SCOPE

This Standard defines the minimum requirements for QMPs for all EPA and non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations. Environmental information operations is a collective term that encompasses the collection, production, evaluation, or use of environmental information by or for EPA and the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology by EPA.

3. AUDIENCE

The audience for this Standard is all Agency employees responsible for environmental information operations. This includes EPA Program Offices, Regions, and their sub-organizations hereafter referred to as EPA organizations. This Standard also applies to non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations in support of EPA's mission or national program priorities as defined by and in accordance with:

¹ The current versions of these directives are located at [IT/IM Directives](#).

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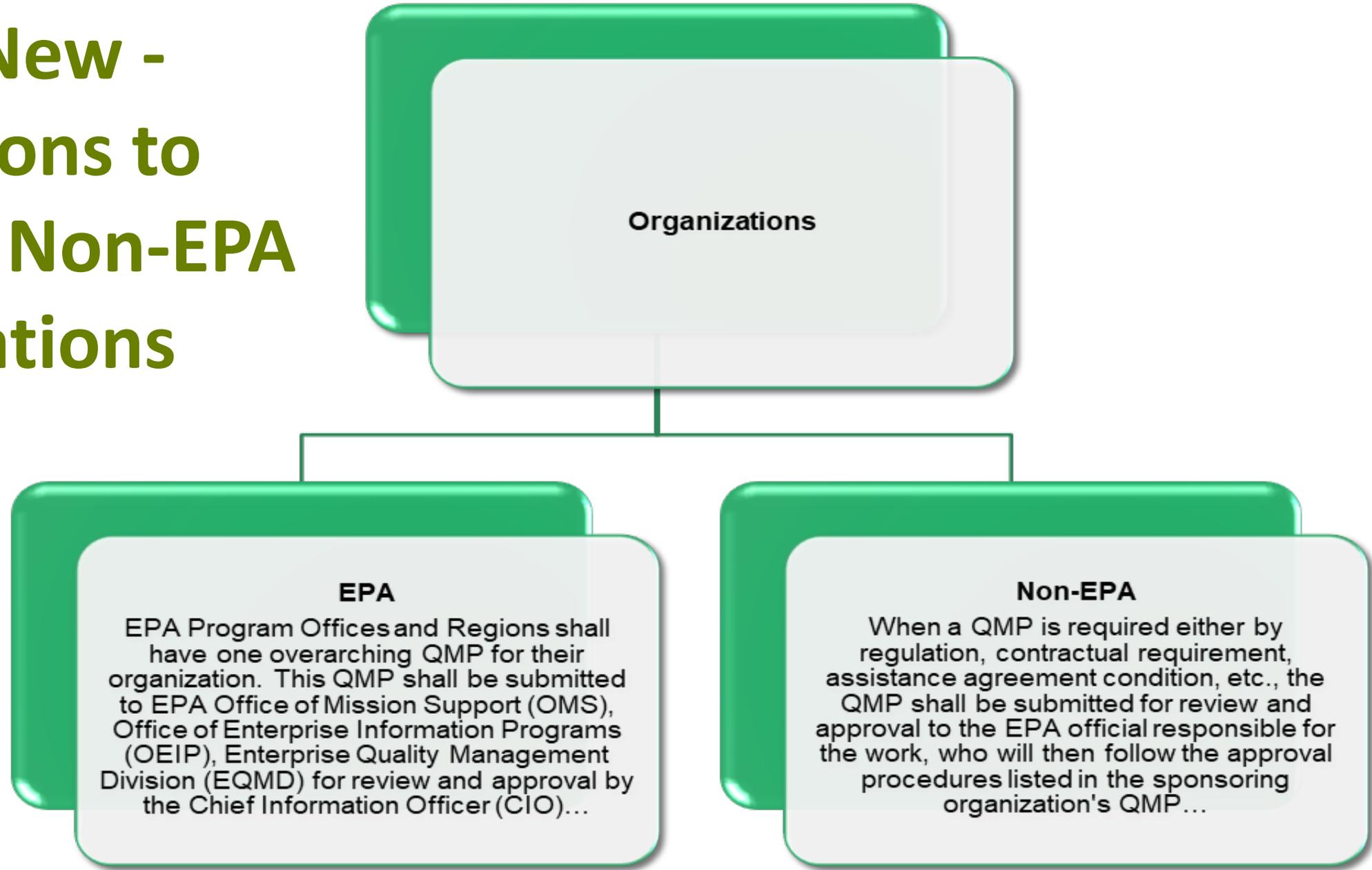
Note: IT/IM directives are reviewed annually for content, relevance, and clarity from Nov. 06/21/2023.

What's New – Directive Content

- No introduction or background section
- No Policy Section
- Table of contents and displaying information in tables/lists is not required



What's New - Instructions to EPA and Non-EPA Organizations



What's New QMP Standard: Tribal Requirements and Information

- **Section 5. B. QMP Requirements** - Tribal Primary Quality Assurance Organizations (PQAOs) conducting regulatory and/or informational monitoring shall also consult with the EPA organization sponsoring the work for additional information on QMPs supporting 40 CFR Appendix A to Part 58: Quality Assurance Requirements for Monitors used in Evaluations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- **8. RELATED INFORMATION** - 40 CFR Part 49: Tribal Authority Rule

What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.1 Title Page

- Functionally eliminated submittal of documents “**equivalent to**” Quality Management Plans.
- Non-EPA organizations shall include “Quality Management Plan” in the document title.



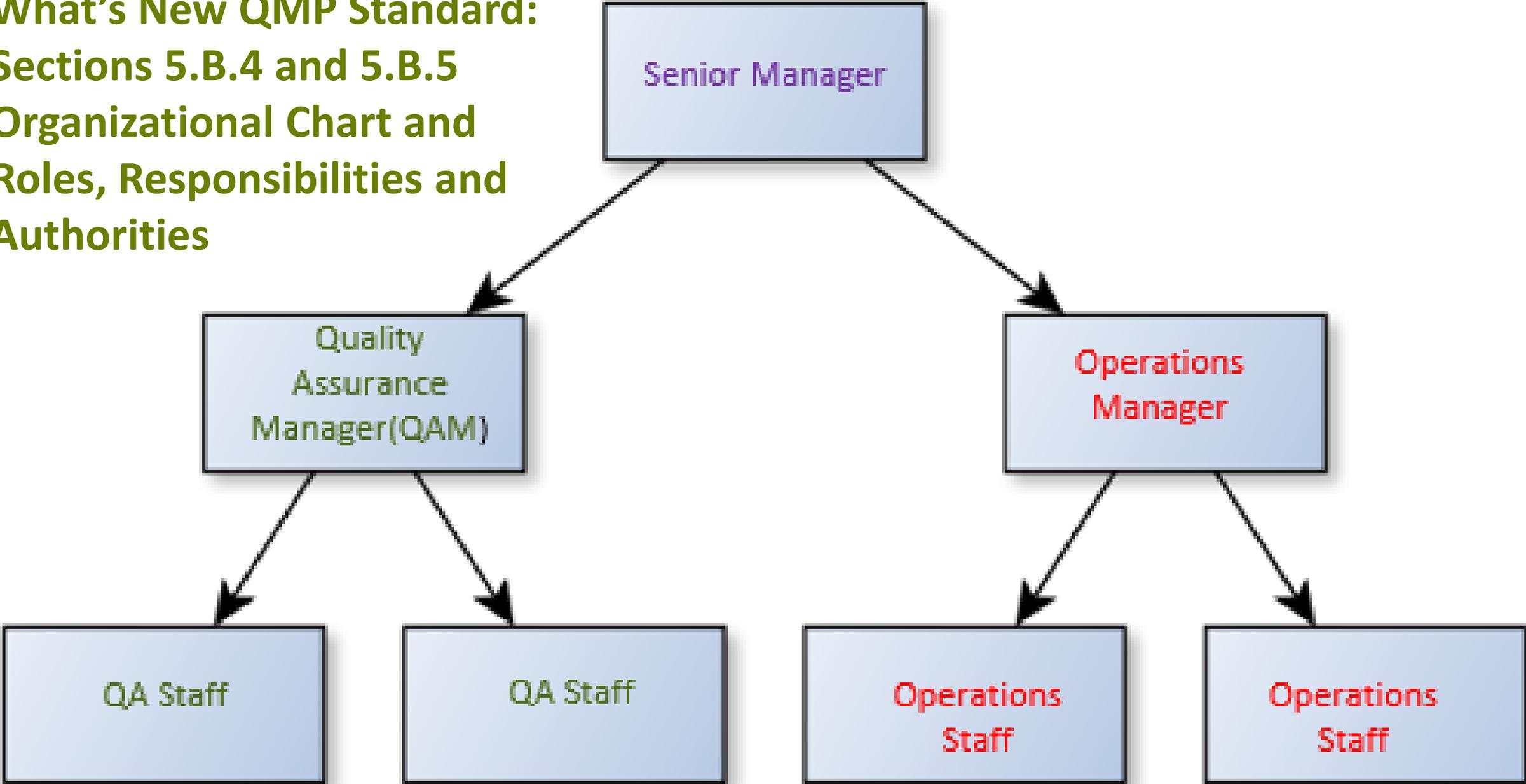
What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.3 Quality Statement

The statement shall include at a minimum:

- The importance of quality in its environmental information operations
- The general objectives and goals of the QMP
- A description of management and staff responsibilities for implementing the QMP
- The organization's commitment to quality management principles, practices, and resource allocation for the organization's QA Program



**What's New QMP Standard:
Sections 5.B.4 and 5.B.5
Organizational Chart and
Roles, Responsibilities and
Authorities**



What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.8 QA Field Activities

- **Field Activities** - Activities conducted that require the collection of observations, samples, or data in support of EPA's mission.
- Examples:



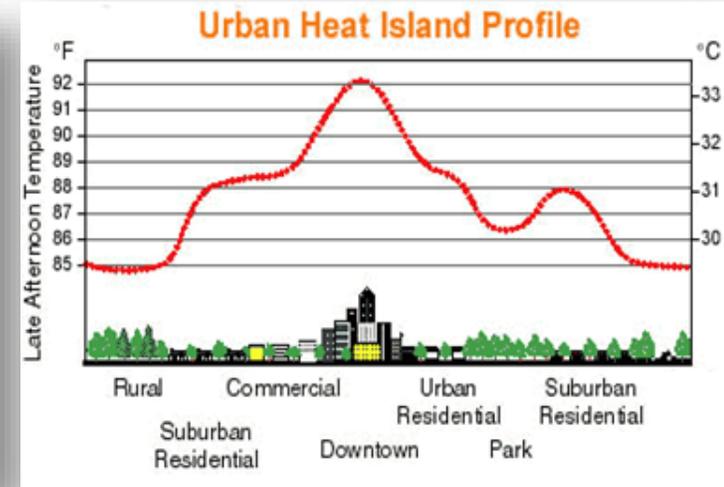
Sample Collection



Field Parameter Measurements



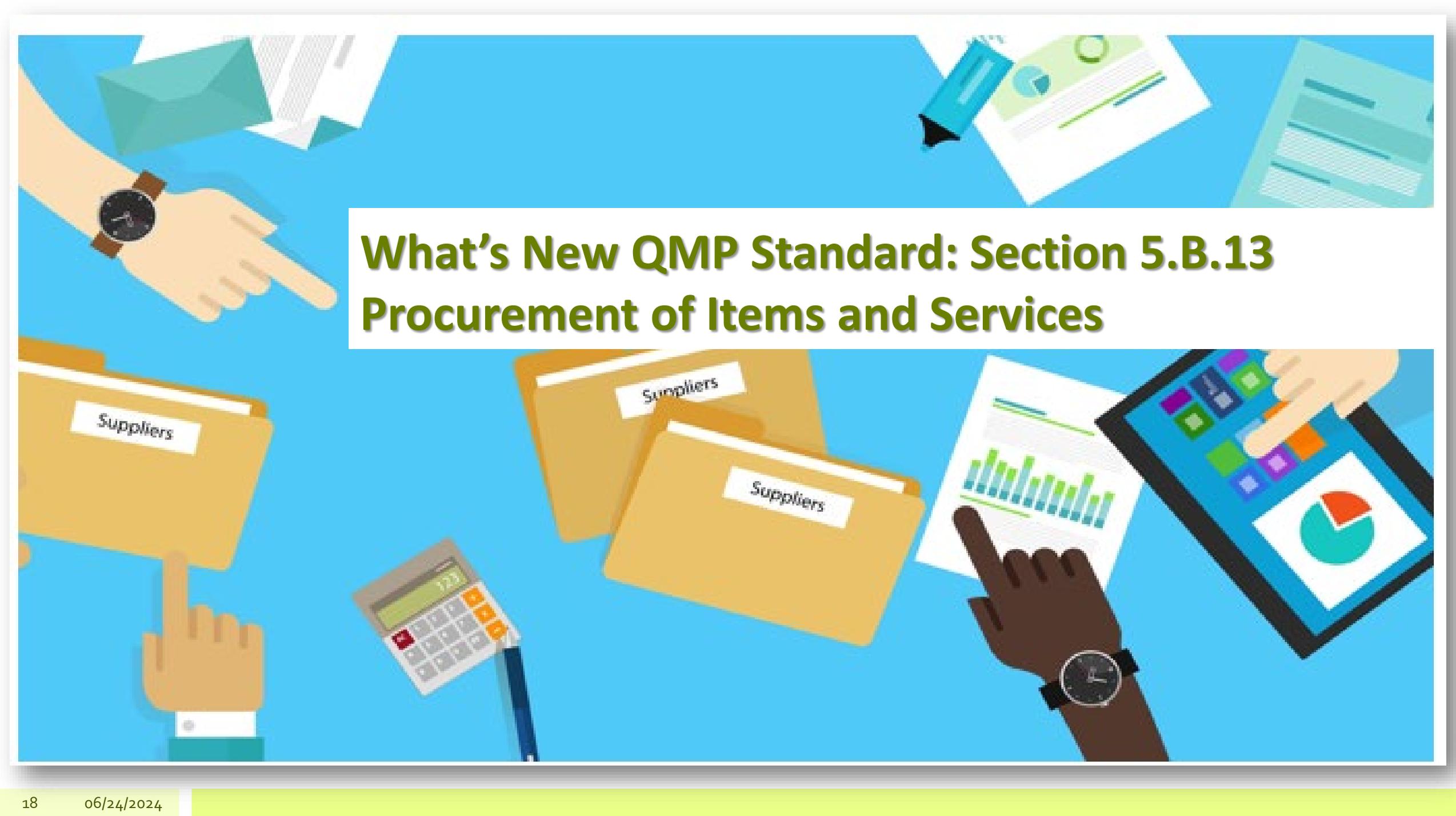
Observation



Data Collection

What's New QMP Standard: Sections 5.B.11 and 5.B.12 Organization Competence and Personnel Training

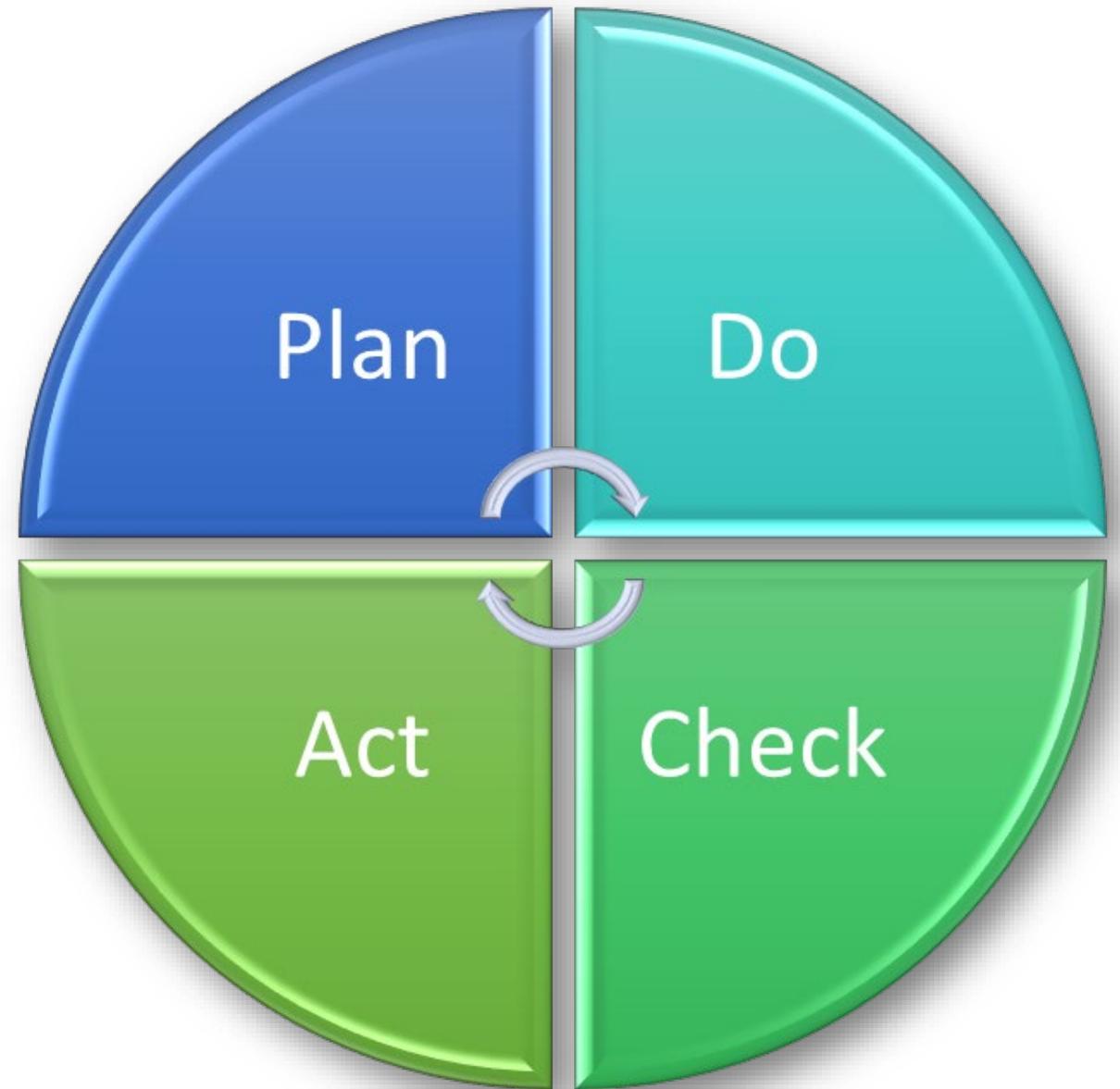




What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.13 Procurement of Items and Services

What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.15 Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) Quality Model

An iterative four-step approach for managing, planning, implementing, and administering continual improvement over the lifecycle of environmental information operations.



What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.16 Dispute Resolution Process



What's New QMP Standard: Section 5.B.18 Data Review, Validation and Verification, and Data Useability Reporting



What's New QAPP Standard: ANSI E4 linkages

ANSI E4 linkages covered in QAPP Standard:

- 1. PURPOSE
- 7. RELATED INFORMATION
- 8. DEFINITIONS

Previously covered in QA/R-5:

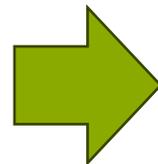
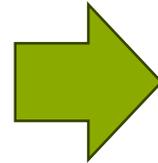
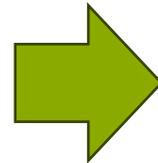
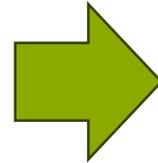
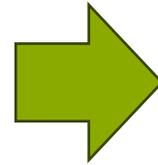
- Chapter 1.2 QA PROJECT PLANS
- THE EPA QUALITY SYSTEM
- ANSI/ASQC E4-1994



What's New QAPP Standard: Equivalent Sections

QA/R-5

- 1.3 *The Graded Approach and the EPA Quality System*
- 1.4 *Intended Audience and 2.3 Applicability*
- 1.5 *Period of Applicability*
- 1.6 *Additional Resources*
- 10. *Directive(s) Superseded Group Elements (a,b,c,d)*



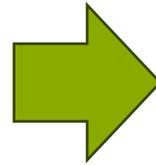
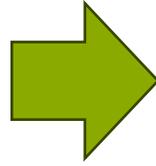
QAPP Standard

- 5.a.2. *Level of Detail: the graded approach and QAPPs*
- 3. *Audience*
- 5.a.5. *Period of Applicability of an Approved QAPP*
- 7. *Related Information*
- 1.7 *Supersession Group Elements*

What's New QAPP Standard: Content Separation

QA/R-5

- 2.4 General Content and Detail Requirements
- 2.5 Quality Assurance Project Plan Preparation and Approval



QAPP Standard

- 5.A.1. General Content **AND**
- 5.A.2. Level Of Detail: The Graded Approach And QAPPs
- 5.A.3. QAPP Preparation Responsibility **AND**
- 5.A.4. QAPP Submittal and Approval

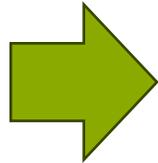
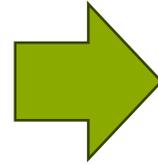
What's New QAPP Standard: Combined Sections

QA/R-5

2.6 QUALITY ASSURANCE
PROJECT PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 CONTENT
REQUIREMENTS

CHAPTER 3:
QAPP ELEMENTS



QAPP Standard

5.B. QAPP Requirements

Contact Information



Region 6 Quality Staff Information

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Contact Us About the Quality Program

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Managing the Quality of Environmental Data at EPA Region 6

<https://www.epa.gov/quality/managing-quality-environmental-data-epa-region-6>

R6 QA Training for Grantees and Other QA Personnel

<https://www.epa.gov/quality/r6-qa-training-grantees-and-other-qa-personnel>