

November 24, 2021

Supplier Quality Notification

Shipping Product with an approved Vendor Information Request ("VIR")

Form #089725 attached

To our valued suppliers:

BAE Systems' Combat Mission Systems would like to provide written clarification to our supply base regarding the shipment of product with an approved VIR:

- The approved VIR must be attached to the purchase order (PO).
 - The VIR is not in effect until it is attached to the PO. Do not ship based on receipt of an advanced copy of the approved VIR if received via e-mail.
- When section D of the VIR is signed, it authorizes shipment of non-conforming product. **It is not an acceptance** of the requested deviation.
 - Non-conforming product cannot be shipped unless section D of the VIR is signed by an authorized BAE Systems' representative.
 - Non-Conformance Reports (NCRs) will be issued to keep non-conforming products segregated from products that meet the contract requirements.
 - Non-conforming products cannot be accepted until the requested action is completed, i.e., drawing revision, variance, etc.
 - If BAE Systems is at fault, and the VIR is submitted and answered prior to shipment, the NCR will not be charged against the supplier, i.e., typo on drawing note, etc.
- **Be certain to understand all the terms of the approval**
 - Deviations are limited to a certain quantity or shipment, i.e., 10 units, first shipment only, etc.
 - Because a product can be used on multiple vehicles, VIR approvals must be provided from each program office:
 - Example: A bracket is used on three different programs. The Supplier requests the use of an alternative material based on availability and schedule requirements. Programs A and B approve the deviation based on the immediate need for the parts. Program C has no immediate need, does not approve the request, and does not ask the customer for the deviation.
 - Result: The other material may be used only on parts for programs A and B, which approved the deviation. The material specified on the drawing must be used for the parts produced for program C.
 - The Contract and Project numbers on each PO line identifies the programs.
- Approved VIRs cannot carryover to other POs:
 - A new VIR **must** be submitted if additional POs are issued for the same part with the same condition, and which prompted the original VIR
 - Do not assume that subsequent VIRs will be approved. Take no action until an official response is attached to each PO.

Thank You,
Combat Mission Systems Supplier Quality Assurance Team