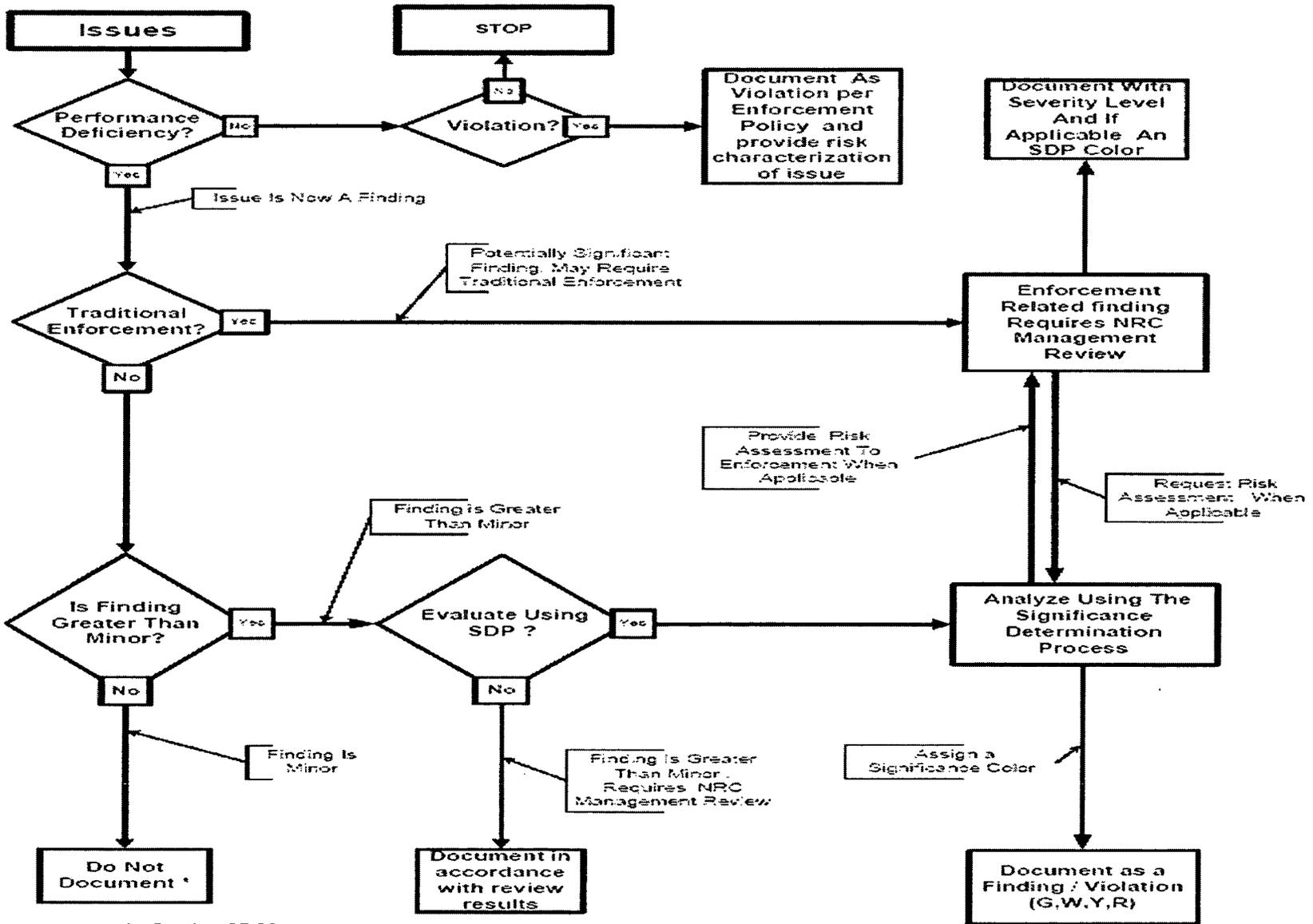


Significance Determination Process ^{A-1} Overview

- Described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609
- Risk-Informed Reactor Safety Guidelines:
 - Appendix A: Findings Affecting At-power Operations
 - Appendix G: Findings Affecting Shutdown Operations
 - Appendix H: Large-Early Release Frequency
 - Specialty SDPs:
 - Appendix F: Fire Protection
 - Appendix J: Steam Generator Tube Integrity
 - Appendix K: Maintenance Rule Violations

Entry into the SDP



* see exception in Section C5.03

Reactor Safety

Significance Determination Process

- Three Phase Process:
 - Phase 1 Screen Issues
 - Phase 2 Estimate Risk Using Plant Specific Risk-Informed Inspection Notebooks / Pre-solved Worksheets
 - Phase 3 Evaluate Risk Using Modification of Phase 2 and/or Independent Risk Tools

- Phases 1 and 2 are Generally Performed by Inspection Staff, with Assistance of a Senior Reactor Analyst (SRA), When Necessary.

- Phase 3 is Defined as ANY Departure from the Phase 2 Process, and are Performed by Risk Analysts.

Minor Determination and Phase 1 At-Power Inspection Findings

- Minor Findings are not Normally Documented.
- Minor Determinations are Made in Accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0612, Appendices E and B.
- Greater than Minor Findings are Processed Using the Phase 1 Screening Worksheet.
- The Screening Process is Designed to:
 - Reduce the Number of Findings Processed in Phase 2.
 - Decrease Inspection of Very Low Risk Significant Items.
 - Screen Some Deficiencies Immediately Based on Low Impact.

Phase 2 Estimation

At-Power Inspection Findings

- Findings are Evaluated Using the Risk-Informed Inspection Notebooks.
- Notebooks Assist the Inspectors in Identifying:
 - The Initiating Events Impacted by the Finding
 - The Accident Sequences Affected
 - The Systems Available to Perform Risk-Significant Functions
 - An Estimated Increase in Core Damage Frequency
- Notebooks Provide Risk Estimates for Findings Involving the Unavailability of Mitigating Systems and/or Increases in Initiating Event Frequencies.