

Implementing Commercial Grade Item Dedication Guidance

Marc H. Tannenbaum EPRI Technical Leader

John Simmons Luminant Consulting Nuclear Auditor

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When is commercial grade item dedication guidance implemented?

When Appendix B controls alone are not being used to assure the item meets applicable design requirements

Condition	Supplier	Licensee
Design requirements and acceptance criteria are not known (safety function and FMEA are used to establish "critical characteristics")	\checkmark	V
Design requirements and acceptance criteria are known and become critical characteristics (desire to document acceptance using dedication)	\checkmark	



Implementation challenges

Dedication "at the level of supply"

- It is possible to dedicate at the device or component-level
- A replacement part sold "stand alone" may require a different acceptance method (dedication) than a part sold installed in a completed assembly.
 - Valve stem sold alone versus sold as part of an entire valve
- A completed and accepted design (including seismic and environmental qualification) is required prior to beginning the commercial grade dedication process
 - Dedication is not a substitute for establishing suitability of design or qualification
 - Suitability of design and qualification can not be established during the dedication process



Implementation Challenges

- Dedication must be performed by a dedicating entity with an Appendix B-compliant QA program
 - Delegating acceptance activities such as testing to commercial subtier suppliers may require separate technical evaluations to dedicate commercial-grade services

 Licensee review of supplier dedication evaluations may be appropriate

- Uncertainty about safety function upon which the technical evaluation is based (not based upon known design requirements for the item)
- Known challenges / issues
- First-of-a-kind dedication

 Commercial grade surveys must be based upon critical characteristics & specific controls over those characteristics

Documenting the technical evaluation & acceptance plan

- Provide basis statements that explain how the critical characteristics are related to safety function(s) and failure modes,
 - Particularly important when design requirements are not known
- Document the source of critical characteristic acceptance criteria
- Document engineering judgements explain reasoning applied to reach conclusions



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