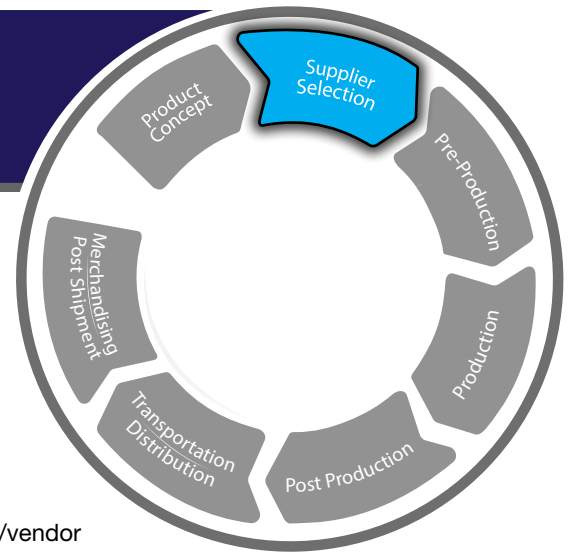


Supplier Selection: Product Quality Considerations

Intended for intermediate compliance programs

Key activity: Quality and capacity audit

Step-by-step approach to consider risk related to product quality during the supplier selection stage.



Supplier Selection

- Define attributes of a good factory/vendor
 - What are we looking for when selecting a factory?
 - What are the essential factors we need to consider when vetting factories to reduce risk?
 - Does the factory have ISO 9001 certification?
 - Does the factory have an adequate quality control system in place?
 - Does the factory have adequate raw materials selections in place?
 - Does the factory have a quality manual?
 - Can the factory meet standards for inspections?
- Have an initial factory orientation meeting to discuss quality assurance expectations; then perform quality and capacity audits; use third party auditors or qualified internal personnel.
- Establish range of defects chart and ensure the factory will be able to meet requirements for QC and safety to avoid defects.
- Incorporate key parts of the QA procedures checklist into the selection/vetting process.
- Determine your acceptable quality levels.
 - Establish range of defects chart and ensure the factory will be able to meet requirements.

Communicate your expectations and testing requirements with potential vendors during this stage

- Performance requirements
- Physical, mechanical and material specifications
- Compliance specifications and voluntary standards
- Testing requirements for compliance, safety and quality