



## CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

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| <b>Bulletin Title:</b>         | Multi-Site Audit Program    |
|                                |                             |
| <b>Inquiries:</b>              | certification@aisc.org      |
|                                |                             |
| <b>To:</b>                     | All Participants/Applicants |

To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of certification for our participants, AISC is streamlining the audit process for participants and applicants with multiple fabrication facilities.

If your audits have already been scheduled as multi-site, the audit plan you receive will note changes to your audit scope and duration.

If you are eligible for multi-site audits but prefer to keep the current model, just let us know.

**Who is eligible?** If you use the **same** quality management system (QMS) for multiple facilities, you qualify--and you get the benefits of both more efficient annual audits and processes every day. That's a win-win!!

**Your facilities qualify if you:**

- Use the same quality manual and procedures for processes that take place at all facilities while allowing for unique processes at individual locations
- Share nonconformance and corrective action information across all facilities to facilitate proactive improvements.
- Centrally coordinate and perform management reviews and internal audits OR have a defined process to formally share these results across all facilities to drive proactive improvements and prevent potential nonconformances.

**Who isn't eligible?** If you use a different QMS at multiple facilities, you are not eligible, and QMC will continue to perform separate audits. Also, you are not eligible if your multiple facilities act as stand-alone companies.



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**What will auditors examine at each location?** Auditors will evaluate the support processes outlined in Chapter 1 of the AISC *Standard for Certification Programs* (AISC 207-20) at the primary location. These processes typically include centralized contract review, detailing, purchasing, management review, human resources, and internal audits. Primary location audits will also consider operational processes (i.e., production, calibration, material control, inspection, delivery, etc.).

Other facilities that primarily perform operational processes will be audited according to their individual circumstances. Remember that:

- Each facility's audit will include the certification program(s) and any endorsement(s) held by that facility.
- Work in one facility may not be used to demonstrate capability for another facility.

**Will this save you time?** Yes! Evaluating support processes at the primary location means that auditors can spend less time at each other location. Your audit plan will show the exact number of days auditors will need at each facility. (We'll do our best, but we can't promise that audits of all your facilities will take place within the same week.)

**Will you save money?** Yes! Multi-site program participants are eligible for a \$750 refund for each additional location. Refunds that are not included on your invoice will be mailed out to you separately. You will still receive an individual invoice for each audited facility.

You are not eligible for a refund if your facility is the primary location or is a facility that participates in the [Dual Audit Program](#).

**Will this decrease the rigor of audits?** Absolutely not. Auditors will continue to use the same audit criteria for companies regardless of all size. Your customers specify certification for a reason, and we will make sure that your certification maintains its value. We're simply streamlining our review of support processes.

**Will you still get individual certificates for each facility?** Yes. Each fabricator location will receive its own certificate.

### **What about Corrective Action Requests (CARs)?**

Your auditor will issue any CARs to the facility where they observed the nonconformance in question. Your corrective action process will allow you to share the nonconformance across all sites and use them for continual improvement.

**When does this start?** The program is being developed! We'll offer it to all eligible firms by the end of 2023.

If you have questions, please contact AISC Certification directly at [certification@aisc.org](mailto:certification@aisc.org) or 312.670.7520.