3. Equipment

3.0 Equipment

The organization shall define and control critical equipment.

3.1 Equipment Specifications

Equipment specifications shall be defined before purchase.

Ø 3.2 Qualification of Equipment

All critical equipment shall be qualified for its intended use. Equipment shall be requalified, as needed, after repairs and upgrades.

3.2.1 Installation Qualification

Equipment shall be installed per manufacturer specifications.

3.2.2 Operational Qualification

Each piece of equipment and component of an information system shall be verified before actual use.

3.2.3 Performance Qualification

Equipment shall perform as expected for its intended use.

3.3 Use of Equipment

Equipment shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's written instructions.

3.4 Unique Identification of Equipment

Equipment shall have unique identification.

3.5 Equipment Monitoring and Maintenance

Equipment shall be monitored and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's written instructions.

3.5.1 Calibration and Accuracy of Equipment

Calibrations and/or adjustments shall be performed using equipment and materials that have adequate accuracy and precision. At a minimum, calibrations and/or adjustments shall be confirmed as described below unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer:

1) Before use.

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- 2) After activities that may affect the calibration.
- 3) At prescribed intervals.
- **3.5.1.1** Calibration of equipment shall include details of equipment type, unique identification, location, frequency of checks, check method, acceptance criteria, and specified limitations.
- **3.5.1.2** Equipment used for calibration, inspection, measuring, and testing shall be certified to meet nationally recognized measurement standards. Certification shall occur before initial use, after repair, and at prescribed intervals. Where no such measurement standards exist, the basis for calibration shall be described and recorded.
- **3.5.1.3** Equipment shall be safeguarded from adjustments that would invalidate the calibration setting.
- **3.5.2** When equipment is found to be out of calibration or specification, the validity of previous inspection and test results and the conformance of potential affected products or services (including those that have already been released or delivered) shall be verified.

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- **3.5.3** The organization shall:
 - 1) Define cleaning and sanitization methods and intervals for equipment.
 - 2) Ensure that environmental conditions are suitable for the operations, calibrations, inspections, measurements, and tests carried out.
 - 3) Remove equipment from service that is malfunctioning/out of service and communicate to appropriate personnel.
 - 4) Monitor equipment to ensure that defined parameters are maintained.
 - 5) Ensure that the handling, maintenance, and storage of equipment are such that the equipment remains fit for use.
 - Ensure that all equipment maintenance and repairs are performed by qualified individuals and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

3.5.4 Investigation and Follow-Up

Investigation and follow-up of equipment malfunctions, failures, or adverse events shall include:

- Assessment of products or services provided since the equipment was last known to be functioning per the manufacturer's written instructions or organization-defined specifications.
- 2) Assessment of the effect on the safety of individuals affected.
- 3) Removal of equipment from service, if indicated.
- 4) Investigation of the malfunction, failure, or adverse event, and a determination if other equipment is similarly affected, as applicable.
- 5) Requalification of the equipment.
- 6) Reporting the nature of the malfunction, failure, or adverse event to the manufacturer, when indicated.

3.6 Equipment Traceability

The organization shall maintain records of equipment use in a manner that permits:

- 1) Equipment to be uniquely identified and traceable.
- Tracing of any given product or service to all equipment associated with the procurement, processing, storage, distribution, and administration of the product or service.

3.7 Information Systems

The organization shall have controls in place for the implementation, use, ongoing support, and modifications of information system software, hardware, and databases. Elements of planning and ongoing control shall include:

- 1) Numeric designation of system versions with inclusive dates of use.
- 2) Validation/verification/qualification of system software, hardware, databases, and user-defined tables before implementation.
- 3) Fulfillment of life-cycle requirements for internally developed software.
- 4) Defined processes for system operation and maintenance.
- 5) Defined process for authorizing and documenting modifications to the system.
- 6) System security to prevent unauthorized access.
- 7) Policies, processes, and procedures and other instructional documents developed using terminology that is understandable to the user.
- 8) Functionality that allows for display and verification of data before final acceptance of the additions or alterations.
- 9) Defined process for monitoring of data integrity for critical data elements.