

Striking a Balance Between Compliance and Risk

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The Aerospace and Defense industry has seen an increase in the divide regarding the approach taken towards prescriptive standards and regulations – one holds programs to rigid compliance, while the other avoids the use of such standards in the name of innovation and faster development/deployment of programs. Most of these standards & regulations were created as the result of many failed programs in the past, programs which, after-the-fact, may have been able to avoid the failure had this guidance been available at the time. We'll touch on the perils of blind compliance, while at the same time avoiding the perils of ignoring risks and lessons learned in the name of expediency. One way to view this is by comparing the contemporary approaches towards "Quality" versus "Mission Assurance" and reframing that discussion in terms of maturity of an organizations' quality system and the risk being accepted.