



BUYER TOOL · 07

AQL Inspection Guide

A practical explanation of Acceptable Quality Limit inspection so you can set the right bar for your product and read a pass/fail with confidence.

How AQL works

AQL defines how many defects a random sample can contain before a lot is rejected, using a statistical sampling standard (commonly ISO 2859 / ANSI Z1.4). Defects are classed as critical, major and minor, each with its own acceptance number.

Setting your levels

- Agree AQL for critical, major and minor defects
- Common apparel: 0 critical, 2.5 major, 4.0 minor
- Match the level to product positioning and price
- Confirm sample size against lot size
- Define each defect class with photo examples
- Document inspection results against the standard

Educational buyer tool. The right AQL level balances letting defects through against rejecting sound goods.