

ANSI/ASQ STANDARD Z1.4-2003AQL CHART

SINGLE SAMPLING PLAN FOR NORMAL INSPECTION, ANSI/ASQ STANDARD Z1.4-2003							
SAMPLE SIZE CODE LETTERS							
Lot Size	General Inspection Levels			Special Inspection Levels			
	I	II	III	S1	S2	S3	S4
2 to 8	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
9 to 15	A	B	C	A	A	A	A
16 to 25	B	C	D	A	A	B	B
26 to 50	C	D	E	A	B	B	C
51 to 90	C	E	F	B	B	C	C
91 to 150	D	F	G	B	B	C	D
151 to 280	E	G	H	B	C	D	E
281 to 500	F	H	J	B	C	D	E
501 to 1200	G	J	K	C	C	E	F
1201 to 3200	H	K	L	C	D	E	G
3201 to 10000	J	L	M	C	D	F	G
10001 to 35000	K	M	N	C	D	F	H
35001 to 150000	L	N	P	D	E	G	J
150001 to 500000	M	P	Q	D	E	G	J
500001 and over	N	Q	R	D	E	H	K

ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 (equivalent to ISO 2859-1) is the world's most widely adopted acceptance sampling standard by attributes. It is an AQL-based (Acceptable Quality Level) sampling system used to randomly inspect raw materials, work-in-progress, and finished goods to determine whether an entire lot meets a predetermined quality threshold.

In simple terms: you don't need to inspect every single unit. By drawing a statistically representative sample, you can infer the quality level of the entire lot with a known degree of confidence. The standard's predecessor was MIL-STD-105E, the U.S. military sampling standard. When the Department of Defense discontinued MIL-STD-105E in 1995, ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 was officially recommended as its replacement — and the two are substantively identical in their core content.

ANSI/ASQ STANDARD Z1.4-2003AQL CHART

		Acceptable Quality Levels (Normal Inspection)																									
Sample Size Code Letter	Sample Size	0.065		0.1		0.15		0.25		0.4		0.65		1		1.5		2.5		4		6.5		10		15	
		Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re	Ac	Re
A	2																					0	1				
B	3																			0	1					1	2
C	5																	0	1					1	2	2	3
D	8													0	1							1	2	2	3	3	4
E	13												0	1						1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6
F	20											0	1					1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8
G	32								0	1						1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
H	50						0	1					1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	
J	80				0	1						1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22
K	125			0	1					1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22		
L	200	0	1					1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22				
M	315				1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22							
N	500			1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22								
P	800	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22										
Q	1250	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22												
R	2000	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	21	22														

↓ = Use first sampling plan below the arrow. If sample size equals, or exceeds, lot or batch size, do 100% inspection.

↑ = Use first sampling plan above the arrow.

ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 (ISO 2859-1) is the most mature and widely applied acceptance sampling standard in the world. Through scientifically designed sample sizes, flexible severity switching, and a clear AQL framework, it helps global buyers control product quality risks at a reasonable cost. For importers sourcing from China, understanding the core logic of this standard — defining AQL in contracts, making accurate acceptance decisions during inspection, and maintaining leverage in supplier negotiations — is not optional; it's fundamental.

Have specific questions about AQL sampling standards? Feel free to contact our technical team at CNQ — we've conducted thousands of AQL-based sampling inspections across virtually every product category.

For any doubt, drop a message to CNQ at: info@cn-q.com

For sampling size, you can also download the "AQL Workload Estimated Calculator" tool from: <https://www.cn-q.com/download#brochure>