

Production Representative Test Articles – Guidance

Summary

Consistent statutory guidance and with the goal to “fly before buying” major systems for the Department of Defense, operational testing in support of Full-Rate Production decisions must be conducted with production systems or production-representative test articles. Whenever practicable, production systems are to be furnished from low-rate initial production (IOT&E) quantities. Through the TEMP, DOT&E can approve the use of production-representative test articles in lieu of production test articles. In evaluating whether systems are production-representative, DOT&E will consider whether the test articles were assembled using the parts, tools, and manufacturing processes intended for use in full-rate production. The system should also use the intended production versions of software. In addition, the logistics system and maintenance manuals intended for use on the fielded system should be in place. DOT&E must be provided detailed information describing any process differences in order to independently evaluate whether the differences are acceptable.

References

[Title 10 USC 2399](#)

[Use of Production-Representative Test Articles for Initial Operational Test and Evaluation \(IOT&E\), DOT&E, October 18, 2010](#)

[Defense Acquisition Guidebook, Paragraph 9.3.2](#)

[DoDI 5000.02, 7 January 2015](#)

Examples