

Improvements to part classification nomenclature

Originator: Dr Bob Callender
Job Title: Head of Processes and Standards
Business Unit: Engineering Quality

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For the attention of the Quality Manager

Dear Sir or Madam,

Scope/Applicability:

All suppliers and partners who supply Gas Turbine products related to Rolls-Royce contracts or purchase orders.

Introduction:

We classify our product parts according to their failure mode effect. As part of our commitment to continuously improve product safety we have updated our part classification system. The term "Reliability Sensitive" has been superseded by the terms "Significant" or "Business Sensitive". The classification terms "Critical" and "Unclassified" remain unchanged.

The term "Significant" indicates that analysis has shown that failure of the part may have an adverse effect on safety, either as the initiator of an unsafe condition or by reducing the levels of protection. The term "Business Sensitive" indicates that analysis has shown that failure of the part will have no adverse effect on safety but the failure is likely to have a severe business impact, typically through service disruption or cost of operation. In both cases the likelihood of failure has been reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable by the inclusion of extra controls (compared to Unclassified parts) on the part drawing. These controls were previously used for "Reliability Sensitive" parts, but with the superseded classifications the mix and detail of these controls will now vary.

For parts produced by a Design/Make supplier, the supplier's safety assessment will be used to classify the product and the elements within it based upon the consequence of the failure modes. Design/Make suppliers may either use their own classification scheme (where proven to be equivalent) or adopt the Rolls-Royce scheme for safety classification. The supplier's classification can only be used subject to Rolls-Royce approval.

The new classifications are being used on new part numbers produced by us from January 2015 onwards. The term "Reliability Sensitive" will be superseded on legacy part numbers when and if the drawing is updated.

Action Required:

Make-to-print suppliers must review and comply with the controls included in the drawings for any new part numbers or updated drawings for existing part numbers. They must also continue to comply with the controls included on the drawing for parts with the legacy "Reliability Sensitive" classification.

Design/Make suppliers must review and, if necessary, update their procedures for classification to ensure they are equivalent to the new Rolls-Royce system. We will verify equivalence during standard scheduled audit activity.

NTS Category:
Engineering / Technical

Authorised by:
Luke Logan
Executive Vice President – Engineering & Technology