

Government/Industry

**Shade Integrated
Product Team (IPT)**

Who Are We?

The Shade IPT consists of members from Industry (garment and material suppliers), Government: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Natick Soldier RD&EC, Defense Support Center of Philadelphia (DSCP), Defense Support Center of Columbus (DSCC), and Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)

Background

The Shade IPT was established based on a recommendation from a higher level team comprised of Industry (Group of 6) and Government (DLA, DSCP, and the Services)

Purpose

Review and document current process (from start to finish) for all the Services. Identify areas for improvement, make recommendations and implement changes to the process

Process will include:

- Shade standard and tolerance determination
- Shade evaluation (pass or fail)
- Shade acceptance or rejection assessment
- Resolution
- Communication of information to industry

Accomplishments

- Revised existing evaluation procedures to allow shade evaluation laboratories to communicate results to Prime and Sub-contractors (Finishers) and DSCP concurrently
- Conducted an Industry survey to obtain feedback on existing shade process. Results showed the following:
 - Industry does not understand the Government shade process
 - Industry identified a need for a consistent and clear process (different terminology, different acceptance/rejection assessment)
- Drafted a list of shade evaluation terms for standardization among Services to assist industry in understanding the information provided in the test reports
- Established the “as is” Process Mapping for DSCC; Natick; Navy; Marine Corps. This included processes for:
 - Shade Standard and Tolerance Development
 - Shade Evaluation (pass/fail)
 - Shade Assessment (accept/rejection)
 - Shade Communication & Contractual processes (Natick contracts only)

Future Efforts

- Finalize list of shade evaluation terms
- Solicit industry for type of information desired/needed from Government
- Establish a Value Stream Mapping Process for Shade
- Investigate the possibility of a database for shade
- Brief recommended process to Industry and Government
- Implement changes