

Project and construction management companies are often tasked by clients to manage quality on their programs and projects. This means ensuring that the contractor has processes and procedures in place to meet the quality requirements of their projects and confirming how these processes and procedures are followed on the jobsite.

Quality control (QC), then, consists of the tasks the contractor undertakes to meet quality requirements, while quality assurance (QA) involves making certain the contractor follows the approved QC plan. Understanding the difference between these two functions can help project teams in several ways, from making sure quality control plans fit the project and the client's quality expectations to conducting QA/QC activities on site. This is particularly important in today's construction environment, as the funding from the Infrastructure and Investment in Jobs Act will require recipients from small towns to major transit agencies to adhere to U.S. Federal government standards for quality management on their programs and

Association of America may differ on the nuances, but these basic definitions apply to almost any project:

- » **Quality Assurance** is the methodology the project team uses to define construction standards. These standards can, and should, include safety provisions, project special provisions, building codes, legal requirements, and the

During construction, QC is responsible for ensuring the contracting team's work is up to standards. However, when



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