# Controlling for Quality

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Define the control process, and discuss the elements of reporting.
- 2. Develop an appreciation for business, process, and product performance reporting.
- 3. Introduce and describe the various reporting structures.

#### TERMINOLOGY

Defect: A departure of a quality characteristic from its intended level or state that occurs with a severity sufficient to cause an associated product or service not to satisfy intended normal, or foreseeable, usage requirements.

*Management*: A process or form of work that involves the guidance or direction of a group of people toward organizational goals or objectives.

*Management (quality) control*: A process for setting goals, monitoring performance, and correcting for deviations.

Nonconformity: A departure of a quality characteristic from its intended level or state that occurs with a severity sufficient to cause an associated product or service not to meet a specification requirement.

*Objective*: A statement (used interchangeably with *goal*) designed to give an organization and its members direction and purpose.

*Policies*: Broad, general guidelines for action which relate to goal attainment.

*Procedures*: A series of related steps or tasks expressed in chronological order to achieve a specific purpose.

Process approach to management: An approach to the study of management that focuses on the management functions of planning, controlling, organizing, staffing, and motivating.

*Rules or requirements*: Guidelines that require specific and definite actions be taken with respect to a given situation or task.

Systems approach to management: A philosophy, popularized by Frederick Taylor, concerning the relationship between people and work that seeks to increase productivity and simultaneously make work easier by scientifically studying work methods and establishing standards rather than depending on tradition and custom.

#### INTRODUCTION

Defining the organizational purpose is critical with regard to control. Management must identify the customer, where the customer is, how the customer buys, and how the customer can be reached. Next, management must determine what the customer buys.

In addition to defining the present business, management must also identify what future business will be and what it should be.

# **Long-Range Objectives**

Long-range objectives generally extend beyond the fiscal year of the organization. Long-range objectives must support and not be in conflict with the stated organizational purpose. However, long-range objectives may be quite different from the organizational purpose and still support it.

# **Short-Range Objectives**

Short-range objectives should be derived from in-depth evaluation of long-range objectives. Such an evaluation should result in a listing of priorities of the long-range objectives. Once the priorities have been established, short-range objectives can be set to help achieve the long-range objectives.

## A Cascade Approach

One approach to setting objectives is to have the objectives "cascade" down through the organizational hierarchy. The objective-setting process begins at the top with a clear, concise statement of the central purpose of the organization. Long-range organizational goals are formulated from this statement. The long-range goals lead to the establishment of more short-range performance objectives for the organization. Derivative objectives are then developed for each major division or department. Objectives are then established for the various subunits in each major division or department. The process continues on down through the organization.

The following items represent potential areas for establishing objectives in most organizations:

- 1. Profitability
- 2. Markets
- 3. Productivity
- 4. Product
- 5. Financial resources
- 6. Physical facilities
- 7. Research and innovation
- 8. Organization
- 9. Human resources
- 10. Customer service

#### Concerns of Control

In order to maintain stability, the manager must be sure that the organization is operating within its established boundaries of constraint. The next concern is objective realization, which requires continual monitoring to ensure that adequate progress is being made toward the accomplishment of established objectives.

At top management levels, a problem occurs whenever the organization's objectives are not being met. At middle and lower levels of management, a problem occurs whenever the objectives for which the manager is responsible are not being met. All forms of management control are designed to provide the manager with information regarding progress. Once the manager has this information, it can be used for several purposes:

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- 1. To prevent crises
- 2. To standardize output
- 3. To appraise employee performance
- 4. To update plans
- 5. To protect an organization's assets

# Written Reports

There are two basic types of written reports, analytical and informational. Analytical reports interpret the facts they present. Informational reports only present the facts.

# **Preparing Reports**

Preparing a report is a four- or five-step process depending on whether it is informational or analytical.

- 1. Planning the attack
- 2. Collecting the facts
- 3. Organizing the facts
- 4. Interpreting the facts (analytical only)
- 5. Writing the report

# **Correcting for Deviations**

All too often, managers set standards and monitor results but do not follow up with appropriate corrective actions. The first two steps are of little value if corrective action is not taken. The steps for effective corrective actions are as follows:

- 1. Identify the problem.
- 2. Perform an investigation to determine the cause of the problem.
- 3. State the cause of the problem.
- 4. Determine a solution for the cause and implement it.
- 5. Prove the solution removed the cause.

# Importance of Value

Persons conducting a business do so with the expectation of increasing value. To accomplish this, they use their outputs to produce goods and

services that are demanded in the marketplace. They sell their products and services and, in return, use outputs to produce more goods and services. To be successful, they must sell their goods or services to their customers for an amount greater than the cost of producing them. To do this, they must ensure the value of the outputs produced. The relationship of the value to the owner's outputs may be expressed by the following equation:

Value = Outputs - Nonconformance

Most businesspeople find that they are unable to conduct their business satisfactorily using only financial measures.

#### **BASIC CONCEPTS**

An organization should have a set of objectives. Management of an organization will require information for determining how well these objectives have been achieved.

This focuses on two factors:

- 1. Whether the goals have been met (effectiveness)
- 2. Whether they were able to provide products and services with minimal nonconformities (efficiency)

In general, the purpose in measuring value is to help management control the activities of the firm.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Each individual with decision-making authority in an organization has responsibility for some aspect of achieving his or her company's objectives. It is essential to recognize this through the development of the performance-logging system. That is, the focus of the value-logging system is on responsibility centers. A responsibility center is an activity or collection of activities controlled by a single individual. In the quality-planning

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process, objectives are proposed for each responsibility center. The responsibility center then becomes the focal point for control.

The type of responsibility the person in charge can exert classifies responsibility centers. A center is a *primary* or *product-producing center* if the person responsible has authority only for producing or providing products or services to the customer. In some cases, this may mean writing a sales order, issuing a purchasing document to purchase raw materials, or producing a product. Examples of primary centers are as follows:

- 1. Contract review
- 2. Design control
- 3. Purchasing
- 4. Customer-supplied product
- 5. Product identification and traceability
- 6. Process control
- 7. Handling, packaging, storage, preservation, and delivery
- 8. Servicing

A *support center* is a center in which the manager has authority only for providing management information or internal services, with regard to primary centers' efficiency and effectiveness, within the organization. In some cases, this may mean writing business performance statements or financial statements, or providing training to employees. Examples of support centers are as follows:

- 1. Document control
- 2. Inspection and testing
- 3. Control of inspection, and measuring and testing equipment
- 4. Inspection and test status
- 5. Control of nonconforming product
- 6. Corrective and preventative action
- 7. Control of quality records
- 8. Internal quality audits
- 9. Training

In measuring value, a distinction is made between the performance of a responsibility center and the performance of its manager. For decisions concerning whether the organization should continue to provide a product or service, all outputs and nonconformance for a responsibility center are accumulated. This practice allows management to make such decisions as whether the company should continue the process or not.

In contrast, only a subset of activity outputs and nonconformance is accumulated for measuring managerial performance. Only those nonconformities over which the manager can exert influence are included in the log for managerial performance. Managerial performance is then measured in part by comparing levels of controllable nonconformance against management's objectives. In this way, a manager may be judged to have performed efficiently for a given activity.

# THE ROLE OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The role of the quality professional has changed dramatically from the days when the quality control manager was simply responsible for the inspection of product. Quality managers are now largely responsible for preparing detailed performance statements; they are asked to help in measuring the effectiveness of operations and suggesting improvements; and they are involved in identifying and proposing solutions to emerging problems. Quality professionals are primarily responsible for designing the firm's performance information system and assuring compliance with quality-logging requirements.

In light of the expanding duties involved, the importance of the quality function is usually recognized in a firm's organizational chart by having the quality executive report directly to the president.

# INTRODUCTION TO QUALITY-REPORTING BASICS

To be useful, performance logging must be assembled and logged objectively. Those who must rely on such information have a right to be assured that the data are free from bias and inconsistency, whether deliberate or not. For this reason, performance-logging systems rely on certain

standards or guides that have proved useful over the years in imparting valued information. These standards (ISO 9000) are called *generally accepted quality principles* (GAQP). Because quality is more an art than a science, these principles are not immutable laws like those in the physical sciences. Instead, they are guides to action and may change over time. Sometimes specific principles must be altered or new principles must be formulated to fit circumstances or changes in business practices.

Because quality principles are based on a combination of theory and practice, there has always been, and probably always will be, some controversy about their propriety.

A principle report resulting from the process of accumulating quality information is the *business performance* or *quality report*. The business quality report portrays the operating results of primary and support center activities for a period of time. This log is prepared monthly.

Another basic log is called an *activity report* or *log* and is generally required in logging responsibility center activities. This log will be discussed later.

Quality professionals log company transactions, which are the result of an activity in relationship to the amount of nonconformities, to determine performance.

# THE BUSINESS QUALITY REPORT

The business quality report (also known as a *performance report*) is a listing of the firm's primary and support responsibility centers' activities on a given date (see Figure 3.1).

The body of the statement contains four major sections: center activities, number of outputs (assets) generated, amount of nonconformance (nc), and calculated value (percentage).

Outputs (or assets) are the resources of the business that can be expressed as the output of an activity. Outputs can take many forms. Some outputs may have readily identifiable characteristics. Others may simply represent information used to communicate customer requirements throughout the organization. Examples are sales orders, purchasing

Red Bead Company Performan	ce Report Ja	nuary 30	, 20XX
Primary Centers	Assests	Nc	Value (%)
RAW MATERIAL INVENTORY			
4.6 Purchasing			
Vendor Assessment	150	12	92%
Purchasing Data	300	5	_ 98%
WORK IN PROCESS	450	17	96%
4.3 Contract Review	500	3	99%
4.4 Design Control	25	2	92%
Department A	25000	1500	94%
Department B	12000	150	99%
Department C	5000	250	95%
	42000	1900	95%
FINISHED GOODS INVENTORY			
4.15 Delivery	250	11	96%

**FIGURE 3.1** Business quality report.

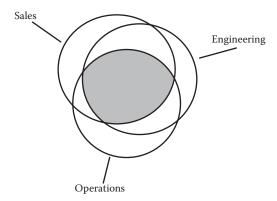
documents, equipment calibration records, and nonconformance logs. Outputs are usually recorded at the acquisition.

Nonconformities are departures of an asset from its intended requirement, or a state that occurs with a severity sufficient to cause the asset not to satisfy customer requirements.

*Value* is the result of comparing outputs to nonconformance to determine percent performance for a given activity. Value is calculated as follows:

$$\left(1 - \frac{\sum Nonconformances}{\sum Assets}\right) \times 100$$

Business performance is the collective value of all the activities within a responsibility center. Figure 3.2 shows the different product-producing departments' scope of performance and where they all intersect. This intersection is where all activities are in 100 percent coincidence with each other. This means that each function provided exactly what the other function required in order to have a usable output. This is the optimum performance area of the business. The larger the



**FIGURE 3.2** Performance diagram.

intersection, the better the performance. If all these functions completely overlapped, the organization would be 100 percent efficient. In practice, this is rarely the case; studies have shown that there is an inherent 3–7 percent error rate no matter what you do.

$$Performance = (S \cup E \cup O)$$

Example: From the Red Bead Company report, overall primary performance is calculated as follows:

$$Pp = (.99 \times .92 \times .96 \times .95 \times .96) = .80$$
 (or 80 percent).

## **UNDERLYING CONCEPTS**

Certain fundamental concepts provide a framework for recording and logging performance. These concepts have been developed over time to provide general guidelines for making business quality reports as objective and as useful as possible.

Any business is an individual unit, separate and distinct from other activities. A separate business quality report would be maintained for each separate business. Outputs are recorded and logged on activity reports or logs to provide a "historical record" of events. Performance activities and

their results appearing in business quality reports are expressed in terms of units generated.

A performance activity is a business activity that requires quality recognition. Therefore, an event that affects any of the elements in the value equation (outputs or nonconformance) must be logged.

### **ACTIVITY REPORTING**

The ultimate objective of performance logging is to record the correct number of outputs generated by an activity and the amount of non-conformance. However, for practical reasons there is a very important quality-logging function, preceding the recording of outputs and non-conformance. The outputs and nonconformance are first entered in a preliminary record called an *activity report* or *log*. The process of recording outputs and nonconformance is called *journalizing*. After the outputs and nonconformance have been journalized, they are totaled and posted to the performance report or log.

Some of the reasons for activity reporting or logging are as follows:

- 1. It provides a chronological record of all outputs and nonconformance generated by an activity.
- 2. It fulfills the need for recording in one place all outputs and nonconformance for a responsibility center.
- It provides more information, such as a detailed explanation of nonconformance, than can conveniently be recorded on individual records.

The original sources of information concerning most outputs and non-conformance are quality records. Examples are sales orders, purchasing documents, production logs, and various other types of business papers. Such records are called *source documents*. Information obtained from source documents helps in determining the number of outputs generated and amount of nonconformance found. The source documents also provide valuable evidence to support the accuracy of the performance log.

The purpose of the activity report or log is to provide a chronological record of all outputs and nonconformance for a given quality activity. It

includes the date in which the outputs and nonconformance were generated, a description of the nonconformance, and the source document from which the information was collected. The flow of information for performance logging is as follows.

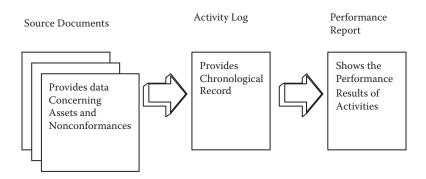
As shown in Figure 3.3, the source documents (quality records) provide the basic information concerning the outputs and nonconformance of each responsibility center activity. The activity report or log represents the first point where data are formally entered in the performance-logging system. Various activity reports or logs may be used, depending on the size of the firm and the nature of their operations.

The simplest form used is a multicolumn form, called an *activity report* or *log* (see Figure 3.4). It has columns for the date on which outputs were generated, asset description, total outputs generated, total nonconformance, description of nonconformance, and totals for each nonconformance description. The basic form for the activity report or log is illustrated as follows:

Department block. The name of the department generating the activity report or log is entered into the department block. This is the responsibility center for the control of quality.

Activity block. The name of the activity being logged is entered into the activity block, such as *subcontractor assessment* or *production department*.

*Record used.* The name of the source document from which data were taken is entered into the record used block, such as *purchase order*, *sale order*, or *inspection log*.



**FIGURE 3.3** Reporting flow.

ACTIVIT	1 LOG					rage	:
Departr	nent:				Description	on of Noncor	nformance
Activity	:						
Record	Used:						
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc			
		-					

# FIGURE 3.4 Basic activity report.

ACTIVITY LOC

*Date column.* The date the asset was generated is entered in the date column. The date is entered on the first row for each asset activity.

*Description column*. The description column is used to record the asset activity or an explanation of the activity.

*Total column*. The total number (or sample size taken) of outputs generated by the activity is entered in the total column.

*Nc column.* The total amount of nonconformance found in the outputs is entered in the Nc column.

*Description of nonconformance*. Descriptions of the nonconformance are entered in the columns below the title *description of nonconformance*.

*Nonconformance columns.* The quantities of the total nonconformance that are attributed to the nonconformance are entered under each nonconformance description.

# **JOURNALIZING PROCEDURE**

To illustrate the recording of activities in the activity report or log, assume that on May 1, 20xx, John Doe of the Red Bead Company Sales Department took 500 orders from customers. Upon review of these orders, three non-conformities were found. This activity is recorded on the first page of the activity report or log as follows:

#### **ACTIVITY REPORT**

Pa	ge:	1
- ~	~~.	

Departm	ent:	Sales			Description	on of Noncor	nformance
Activity:	tivity: Order Entry  cord Used: Sale Orders  ate: Description Total					Wrong	
Record U	sed:	Sale Ord	ers		Wrong	Part	
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc	Price	Number	
5/1/xx	Sales	Taken	500	3	2	1	

The recording of the outputs (sales taken) and nonconformance (including description of the nonconformance) provides a summary of each day's activities, which is a valuable reference if there is some future question about the activity.

For example, the Red Bead Company completed the following additional activities during May.

**Activity**: May 2, 20xx, the Purchasing department wrote 150 purchase orders for raw material purchases and 12 nonconformities were found.

#### **ACTIVITY LOG**

Page:	1
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Departm	ent:	Producti	on		Description	on of Noncor	nformance
Activity:	Record Used: Purchase Orders Date: Description Total				Wrong	Wrong	
				Quantity	Part		
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc	Ordered	Number	
5/1/xx	Order	s Made	150	12	10	2	

**Activity**: May 3, 20xx, Department A produced 25,000 units and 1,500 nonconformities were found.

Page: 1

Page: 1

Page: 1

#### ACTIVITY LOG

Departm	ent:	Producti	on		Description	on of Noncon	formance
Activity:		Departm	nent A		Wrong	Out of	
Record U	sed:	Producti	on Work Or	ders	Color	Tolerance	
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc	(Blue)	> .05"	
5/1/xx	P/N	12345	25000	1500	1200	300	

**Activity**: May 4, 20xx, Department B made 12,000 units and 150 non-conformities were found.

#### **ACTIVITY LOG**

Departm	ent:	Producti	on		Descripti	on of Noncon	formance
Activity:		Departm	nent B		Wrong	Out of	
Record Used: Production Work O		ders	Size	Tolerance			
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc	<.001"	> .005"	
5/1/xx	P/N	536	12000	150	125	25	

**Activity**: May 10, 20xx, Department C produced 5,000 units with 250 nonconformities.

#### **ACTIVITY LOG**

/\C11\11	LOG					1 450	• •
Departm	ent:	Producti	on		Description	on of Nonco	nformance
Activity:	, ,						
Record Used: Production Work Orders		ders					
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc	Cracked	Fading	
5/1/xx	P/N	345	5000	250	175	75	
		-					
		-					

**Activity**: May 12, 20xx, Shipping & Receiving shipped 250 units and 11 shipments were found nonconforming.

ACTIVITY LOG	Page: 1

Departm	ent:	Shipping	& Receiving	g	Description	on of Noncon	formance
8-1-					Raw	Date	
		Slips	ips		Change		
Date:	Descr	iption	Total	Nc	Delay'd	Made	
5/1/xx	Shipi	nents	250	11	10	1	

In the activities recorded above, there was only one entry. Many business activities require the use of more than one entry. Any entry on the activity report or log requiring more than one entry is added to the next available line until the record is complete. These logs are usually completed by the responsibility center manager and given to the quality organization for posting in the performance log.

#### **POSTING**

The process by which the outputs and nonconformance are summarized and transferred to activities on the performance log is called *posting*. It consists of transferring totals for the outputs (total) column and the nonconformance (nc) column on the individual activity reports or logs to the performance log. This is usually performed once a month by the quality organization.

In most businesses, the posting is done either manually or by dataprocessing methods. The conversion to paperless information systems has become very common among businesses. Posting is illustrated in Figure 3.5.

Departmen	nt:	Sales			Description	on of Nonconformar	ıce
Activity:		Order Entry	,		Wrong	Wrong	
Record Use	ed:	Sale Order			Price	Part	
Date:	Descrip	otion	Total	Nc		Number	
5/1/××	Sales T	aken	500	3	2	1	
		Totals	500	3	2	1	
		Iotais	500				
				Į			
			Dad Daad	~	7		
		i	Red Bead ( Performan		/		
			May 30, 20		/		
		1	,		/		
P	rimary centers		Assets	Nc		Value (%)	
4.	3 Contract Rev	view	500	3 /		99%	
4.	4 Design Cont	rol	25	2		92%	
4.	6 Purchasing						
	Vendor Assesn		150	12			
	Purchasing Da	ita	300	5			
			450	17		96%	
4.	9 Process Cont						
	Department A		25000	1500			
	Department B Department C		12000	150			
			5000	250			
			42000	1900		95%	
4.	15 Delivery		250	11		96%	
	Primary Perform				_	80%	

**FIGURE 3.5** Posting to the business quality report.

Activity Report

### PRODUCT PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Inspection records should be maintained that are identifiable to batch, lot, serial number, or work order number. When data are to be taken, define the number of data points and specify the appropriate format for recording the data. An activity report or log is maintained providing a chronology of the inspections performed.

The inspection records should contain the following:

- Inspection data and results compared to acceptance criteria. An
  acceptance decision should be reached for each inspection identifying whether or not compliance with acceptance criteria has been
  achieved. This acceptance or rejection decision should be recorded,
  dated, signed, and made available for review.
- 2. Written disposition, waivers, or deviations from authorized organizations (e.g., a material review board) for release of nonconforming items and services.
- 3. Inspection data, including descriptions of any nonconforming items, provided on a timely basis to responsible functions as feedback to be used for trend analysis or process improvement.

## **ANALYSIS**

## **Ranked Order Analysis**

The business quality report and activity reports provide a basis for establishing frequency distributions. The nonconformities become class bounties, and the numbers of nonconformities are the cumulative frequency of occurrence. The nonconforming class can then be arranged with the highest-occurring nonconformity at the top on down to the lowest, as shown in Table 3.1.

From Table 3.1, it should be obvious that *cracked* is the most frequently occurring nonconformity. Hence, this should be the first problem to be corrected.

**TABLE 3.1**Ranked Order Analysis

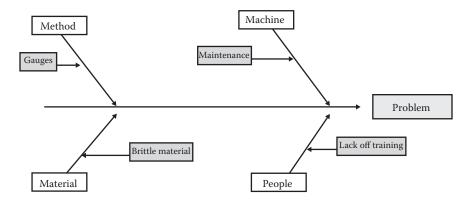
	Description of			
Rank	Nonconformity	Tally	f	%
1	Cracked	IIIII	5	.33
2	Loosened	IIII	4	.27
3	Leaking	III	3	.20
4	Sticking	II	2	.13
5	Fractured	I	1	.07
Summary		,	15	1.00

## Fishbone Diagram

The fishbone diagram shown in Figure 3.6 is used to determine causes and effects which relate to a nonconformity. The major branches of the fishbone diagram are used to determine the major influences that would result in the problem outcome. The braches are as follows:

- 1. *Method*: This is the branch where you would describe those factors in the process that would affect the output with regard to the current practices.
- 2. *Machine*: Here you would identify those factors which are related to the equipment used in the process.
- 3. *Material*: Here you would identify those factors related to the material used in the process.
- 4. *People*: Here you would identify those factors related to the people working within the process.

This technique has proven to be useful in determining the causes of problems. It is interesting to note here that changing any variable in the process will result in a change in the output regardless of whether it is the actual cause.



**FIGURE 3.6** Fishbone diagram.

#### CONTROLLING NONCONFORMANCE IDENTIFICATION

## **Identification during Work**

When operators are engaged in an activity to produce a product, the act of regulating or making modifications is considered a component of that activity. In essence, any changes made during the manufacture of a product are not considered a nonconformity.

## **Completion of Work**

Nonconformities are usually detected after the completion of work. This occurs when the completed product (which is the result of work) is inspected with regard to preestablished requirements.

## Inspection

The purpose of inspection with respect to products is as follows:

- 1. To provide a basis for action for the product already on hand
- 2. To decide if the product meets requirements
- 3. To provide a basis for action with regard to the process
- 4. To decide if the process requires action

# **Identification of Nonconforming Product**

When in the course of inspection (by the operator or independent inspector) nonconforming product is detected, it should be identified by some suitable means (e.g., tags, markings, or location).

#### **SEGREGATION**

#### **Short-Run Production**

There are cases where the lot or batch integrity must be maintained. In such circumstances, the nonconforming units must be appropriately identified to ensure against their use. Where integrity of the lot is not an issue,

units should be isolated or removed from the flow of production to prevent unintended use.

## **Long-Run Production**

In the case of mass production (or continuous, homogeneous flow), nonconforming units must be removed from the process for disposition. Nonconforming units must be separated from other materials to prevent unintended use.

#### Risk

Associated nonconformance risk levels are defined as follows:

- Critical: A nonconformity that may cause bodily harm, injury, or death, and/or prevents the product from performing its intended function.
- 2. *Major*: A nonconformity that may reduce the life of the product and/ or is readily noticeable by the customer.
- 3. *Minor*: A nonconformity that is neither critical nor major.

#### **DISPOSITION**

# Responsibilities for Disposition

Over the years, there have been many ways to determine how to dispose of nonconforming material; the following are some current practices:

- 1. *Material review boards*: In some cases, organizations have opted to establish a group of top managers to review nonconforming material for disposition. This requires the consensus of all the managers in the disposition decision.
- 2. *Management*: Other organizations have delegated the responsibility for disposition of nonconforming product to a specific departmental manager or managers.

3. *Operators*: In some cases, due to the nature of the nonconformity, the operator can dispose of nonconforming material immediately.

# CORRECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE ACTION (CAPA) METHODOLOGY

## **Immediate Action Required**

When the nonconformity has an associated risk of critical or major, corrective action should be taken immediately. If the nonconformity is detected while the product is in transit to the customer or storage, the customer must be notified at once and the material placed in quarantine.

# Magnitude of the Nonconformity

An analysis should be made of the nonconformities by product to detect statistical trends. This is done using ranked order analysis (see Table 3.1) to determine the most frequently occurring nonconformity for corrective action.

# **CAPA Methodology**

When performing either corrective or preventive action, the steps are the same. It should be noted that corrective actions are always product-based, whereas preventive actions are process- or system-based. The steps are as follows:

- 1. Investigate the cause of nonconformities relating to the product, process, and quality system, and record the results of the investigation.
- 2. Identify the root cause of issues requiring corrective or preventive action.
- 3. Determine the steps needed to deal with any problems requiring corrective or preventive action.
- 4. Implement corrective and preventive actions.

- 5. Apply controls to ensure that corrective and preventive action is taken.
- 6. Initiate controls to ensure that actions taken are effective.
- 7. Confirm that relevant information on actions taken is submitted for management review.

#### **SUMMARY**

Departmental managers are primarily concerned with the efficiency of certain activities in their department which are indicators of their overall performance. By monitoring these activities, departmental managers can prevent, reduce, or eliminate nonconformities, resulting in improved overall value. To do this, they must determine the output of each activity and its interrelationship with regard to providing value to the customer. Some activities provide support to achieving the desired output, while others are directly related to or incorporated into the output itself.

Each activity usually has a source document related to the output. This could be a purchase order, packing list, or training record. The documents provide a record of the event in writing, which preserves the knowledge of the transaction. In this way, key data are collected to provide useful information to management.

Once the data have been collected on records, these records must be categorized and summarized to provide a chronology of events related to the department's output. This chronology usually provides the following information:

- 1. Number of outputs produced
- 2. Number of nonconformities found
- 3. Description of the nonconformities

The departmental managers should establish goals and requirements in writing which are consistent with the overall company performance. In addition, departmental managers should identify the record used to collect pertinent data.

# **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is the purpose of the business quality report?
- 2. Describe the different types of centers.
- 3. Define the business quality report.
- 4. Define the basic activity-reporting process.
- 5. Describe how overall business performance is calculated.
- 6. Describe how value is calculated.
- 7. Describe the three principles of quality control.
- 8. Describe how goals are defined.
- 9. Define how the reports are communicated.
- 10. Explain the following:
  - A. The business-reporting structure
  - B. Journalizing and posting
  - C. The product- and project-planning function