Nadcap Special Process Accreditation (Welding, NDT, Composites, Heat Treat)

Published: November 16, 2026 · Canonical URL: https://bcesg.org/wa-space-ask-nadcap-special-processes/

Verification & Authority Baseline: Administered by the Performance Review Institute (PRI). Industry-managed accreditation (not a statute) that becomes contractually binding whenever prime drawings or POs mandate Nadcap-accredited welding, NDT, chemical processing, heat treating, or composites.



Special Process	Typical WA Space Use	Option for Small Machine Shops
Welding / Brazing	Propellant lines, thrust chambers, cryogenic valves	Maintain Nadcap or sub-tier to accredited shop
NDT (FPI, X-Ray, UT)	Structural castings, welds, composite bondlines	Outsource to Puget Sound Nadcap NDT house
Chemical Processing	Passivation, anodize, chromate conversion	Outsource; triggers WA Ecology / PSCAA permits

Who Issues This Ask, Authority, and Binding Status

Nadcap accreditation is mandated by aerospace primes—including The Boeing Company, Aerojet Rocketdyne (L3Harris), and Tier-1 propulsion/launch integrators—whenever special processes cannot be fully verified by post-process inspection alone.

Administered by the **Performance Review Institute (PRI)**, Nadcap is a **voluntary industry-cooperative program** that is **contractually binding** when invoked by engineering drawings or Approved Supplier List rules.

Evidence Required & Small-Supplier Effort Cost

Suppliers provide an active **PRI eAuditNet Nadcap Certificate** for the exact process scope (e.g., NDT AC7114, Welding AC7110, Chemical Processing AC7108, Composites AC7118) or subcontract special processes exclusively to a

prime-approved Nadcap processor and attach their Certificate of Conformance to AS9102 Form 2.

PRI audit fees and remediation costs depend on process count and audit days and are **not in our data**.

WA Space Cluster Segments & Companies Affected

Critical across Components & Suppliers (Janicki Industries, Karman Space & Defense, Space Valves), Propulsion, and Launch.

Verified Primary Sources & Internal Bridges

• PRI — Nadcap Accreditation Program: https://www.p-r-i.org/nadcap/

• SAE — AS9100D Quality Management Systems: https://www.sae.org/standards/as9100d-quality-management-systems-requirements-aviation-space-defense-organizations/