

# AQL Inspection Chart

A practical quick-reference guide for apparel pre-shipment inspections, final random inspections, and buyer quality planning.

<p><b>What AQL means</b> AQL is the agreed defect limit used to decide whether a sampled production lot should be accepted or rejected.</p>	<p><b>Common apparel setup</b> Critical defects: 0. Major defects: AQL 2.5. Minor defects: AQL 4.0. Higher-risk products may use stricter limits.</p>	<p><b>Important note</b> This guide is a planning reference only. Final inspection levels should be confirmed with buyer requirements and the applicable standard.</p>
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## How to Use This Chart

1	<b>Find the total lot size</b>	Use the total pieces ready for inspection, not only one size or one color unless the buyer requires separate lots.
2	<b>Select the sample size</b>	For standard apparel inspections, General Inspection Level II is commonly used. The chart below gives a quick sample size.
3	<b>Apply defect limits</b>	Count critical, major and minor defects separately. Accept the lot only if defects are within the agreed AQL limits.
4	<b>Record the result</b>	Keep inspection notes, measurements, photos, packing checks and corrective actions with the order file.

**Recommended apparel defect limits:** Critical defects: 0 accepted. Major defects: AQL 2.5. Minor defects: AQL 4.0. Use AQL 1.0 when the buyer requires stricter control for appearance, safety, performance or premium orders.

## General Inspection Level II - Quick AQL Table

Use this simplified reference to identify sample size and common accept/reject limits for apparel inspections.

Lot Size	Code	Sample	AQL 1.0 Ac/Re	AQL 2.5 Ac/Re	AQL 4.0 Ac/Re
2-8	A	2	0/1	0/1	0/1
9-15	B	3	0/1	0/1	0/1
16-25	C	5	0/1	0/1	0/1
26-50	D	8	0/1	0/1	1/2
51-90	E	13	0/1	1/2	1/2
91-150	F	20	0/1	1/2	2/3
151-280	G	32	1/2	2/3	3/4
281-500	H	50	1/2	3/4	5/6
501-1,200	J	80	2/3	5/6	7/8
1,201-3,200	K	125	3/4	7/8	10/11
3,201-10,000	L	200	5/6	10/11	14/15
10,001-35,000	M	315	7/8	14/15	21/22
35,001-150,000	N	500	10/11	21/22	21/22
150,001-500,000	P	800	14/15	21/22	21/22
500,001+	Q	1250	21/22	21/22	21/22

Ac/Re means Accept/Reject. Example: 10/11 means accept the lot if 10 or fewer defects are found; reject if 11 or more defects are found. Critical defects are normally 0/1 regardless of AQL level.

Important: Full ISO 2859-1 / ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 tables include switching rules, arrows and special cases. Use this chart as a buyer-friendly quick reference, not as a replacement for contractual inspection standards.

## Defect Classification for Apparel

Classifying defects correctly keeps the inspection result fair, consistent and useful for corrective action.

Type	Meaning	Examples
<b>Critical Defects</b>	Unsafe or legally non-compliant defects. Usually zero tolerance.	Broken needle, sharp object, harmful chemical issue, wrong fiber content claim, serious safety failure.
<b>Major Defects</b>	Defects that affect appearance, performance, function or saleability.	Open seam, wrong measurement beyond tolerance, incorrect print placement, broken zipper, visible stain, color mismatch.
<b>Minor Defects</b>	Small workmanship issues that do not normally affect function or safety.	Loose thread, small shade variation, minor trimming issue, slight puckering, small packaging mark.

## Final Inspection Checklist Snapshot

Inspection Area	What to Check
Fabric & color	Shade, GSM, fabric width, stains, holes, hand feel, lot matching
Measurements	POMs checked against approved size spec and tolerance
Stitching & construction	Seams, bartacks, SPI, thread color, trims, symmetry
Branding	Labels, hang tags, care labels, print/embroidery placement
Finishing	Loose threads, pressing, folding, cleaning, metal detection if required
Packing	Polybag, carton marks, ratio, size/color assortment, shipping labels

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