

The Supplier Management Handbook, Sixth Edition, James L. Bossert, Editor.
American Society for Quality, Quality Press, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203. 2004. ISBN
0-87389-629-7 ;296 pages; Listed \$60.00.

This new edition addresses the evolving role of purchasing agent. This is a transformation from a traditional collector of quote and determining lowest bidder to becoming a facilitator and integrator. Who obtains the necessary experts to help evaluate and decide which supplier has the best potential to supply and support the success of the organization's mission.

An overview of the basic supplier management issues are discussed in individual chapter for: specifications, record keeping, site inspection, measurement assurance, supplier rating, communications, from ship-to-stock to just-in-time, and data evaluation.

Worth mentioning, is that, in the supplier rating chapter, it provides a case study of how the supplier's performance were rated, and the performance index was used to determine the best value which encompassed not only the pricing but the key performances which will impact the life cycle cost of the procurement.

The readers can obtain the information of how to conduct a supplier survey, issues in the supplier certification and how to evaluate a supplier's product. Also included in the book, the industry specific topic, such as the management of the suppliers in software, food, service, and small business.

However, this book did not specifically discuss the evolving overlapped roles of purchasing agent and supplier quality professional. The implication of this merging roles signify the need to rethink or redesign the traditional procurement, and the quality's role in the management of the supplier for the organization's success.

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