



The National Enforcement Investigations Center Quality Management System and Accreditation Status

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)

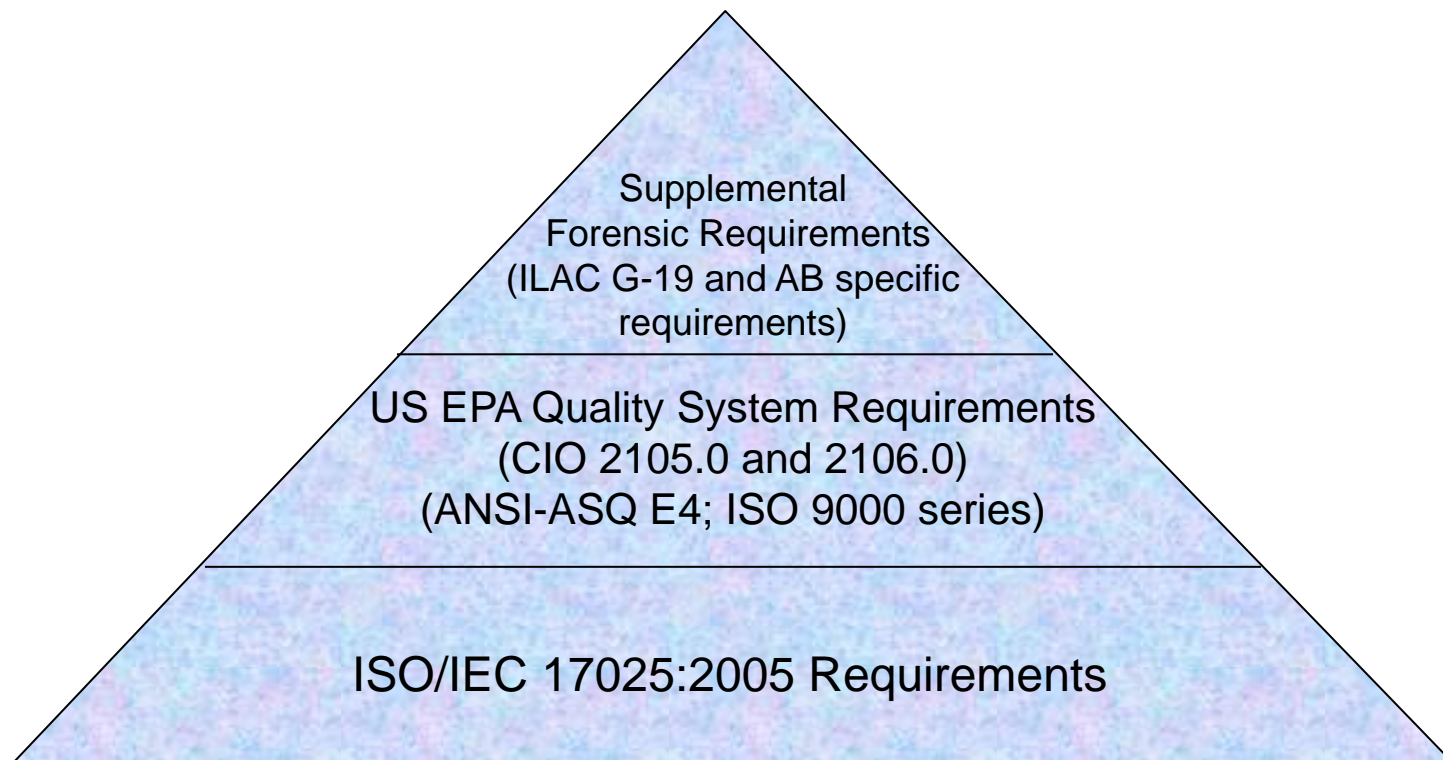
Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training (OCEFT)

National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)

Denver, Colorado



Sources of NEIC's Quality Management System Requirements





Accreditation Scope and Cycle

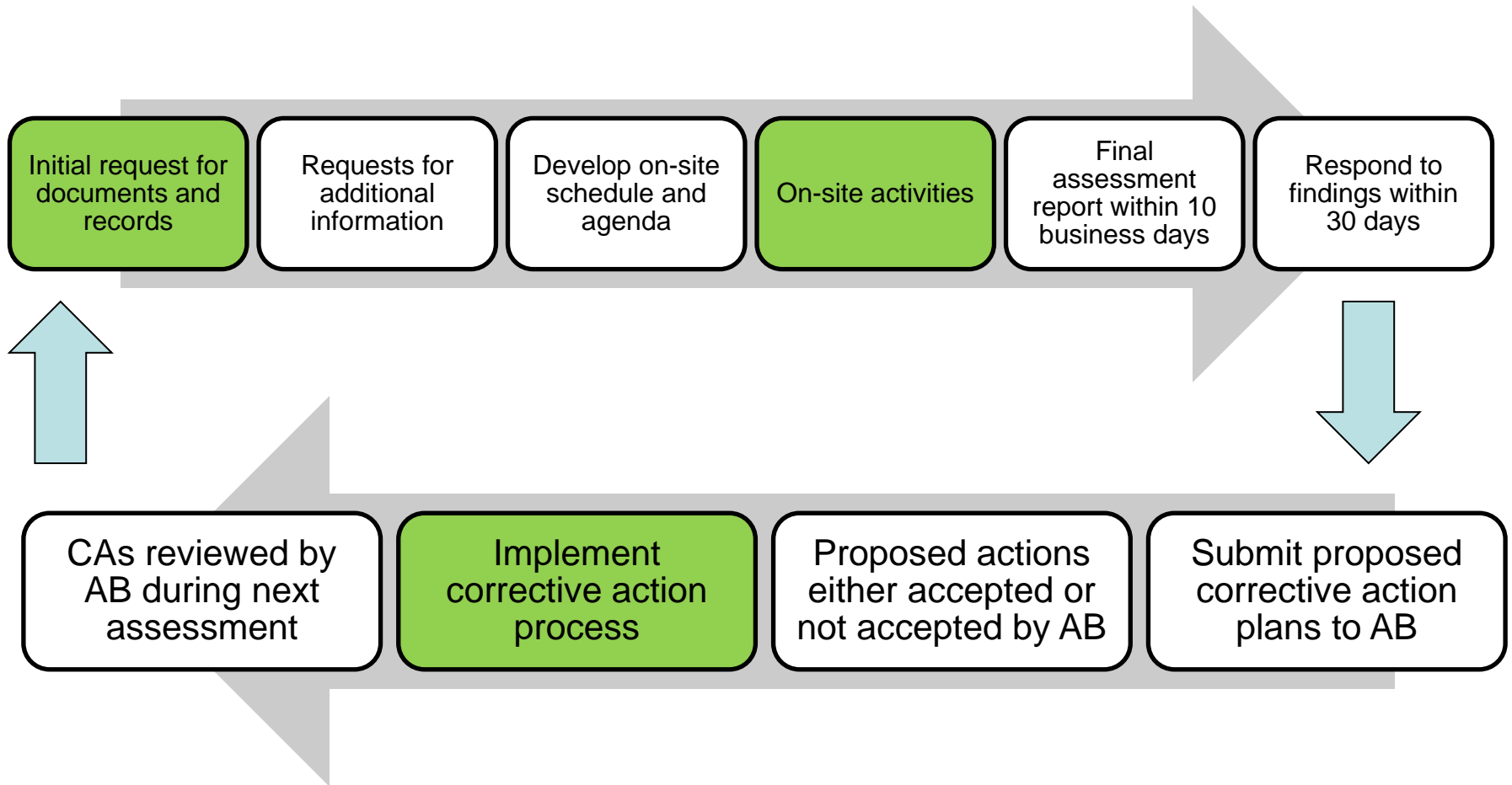
- Scope – sampling, field measurements, laboratory measurements
- Four year cycle
 - Current certificate 4/1/2012 – 4/1/2016
- Two surveillance assessments (on site)
 - February 2014
 - January/February 2016 (re-accreditation)
- Two remote assessments (“desk audits”)
 - February 2013
 - February 2015



Examples of Assessment Areas

- Technical competence of staff
 - Qualifications, experience, initial and ongoing training
- Selection and use of test methods and validation/verification of test method performance (“fitness for purpose”)
- Sampling practices
- Estimation of measurement uncertainty (quantitative analysis)
- Suitability, calibration, and maintenance of test equipment
- The testing environment (facilities)
- Sampling, handling, and transportation of test items
- Quality assurance procedures (internal and external quality assessment practices)
- Recordkeeping
- Reporting procedures

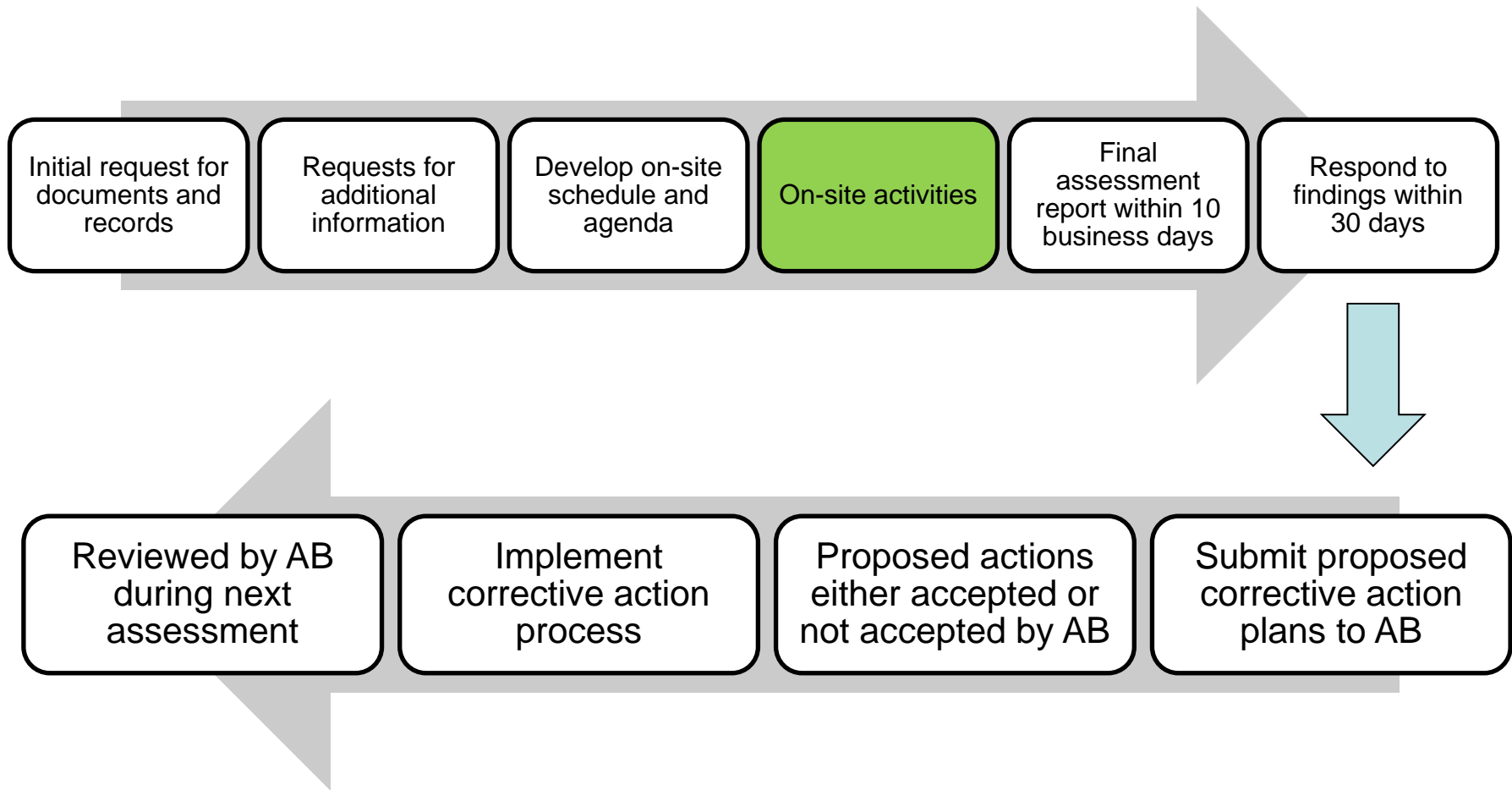
Third-party Assessment Process (Example)





Initial Request For Documents and Records

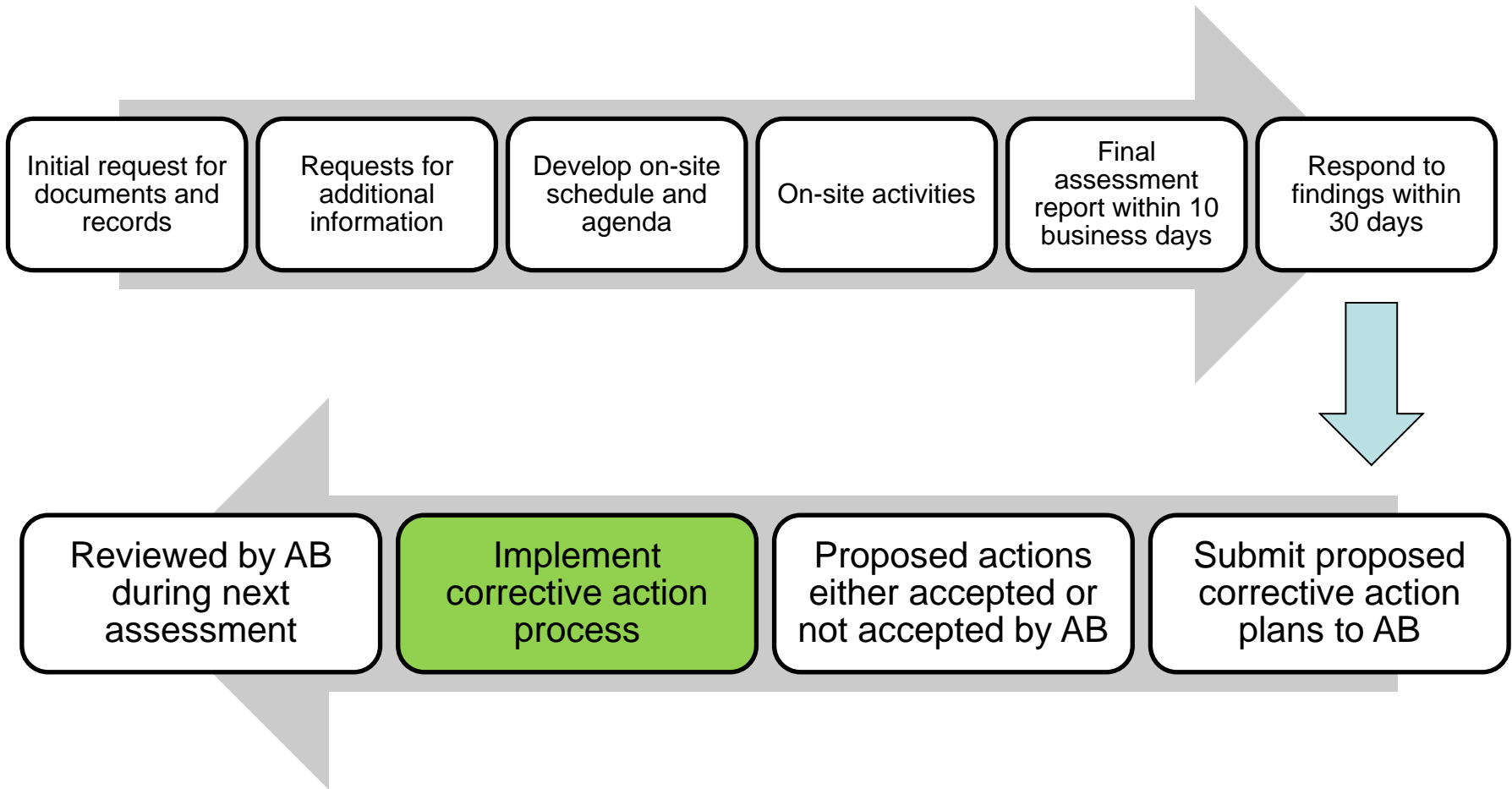
- Quality manual (all policies, procedures, guidance documents)
- Approved 4-year plan for proficiency testing (PT) and inter-laboratory comparisons (ILC)
- Proficiency testing results
- Management review records
- Internal audit records
- Corrective action records
- Preventive action records



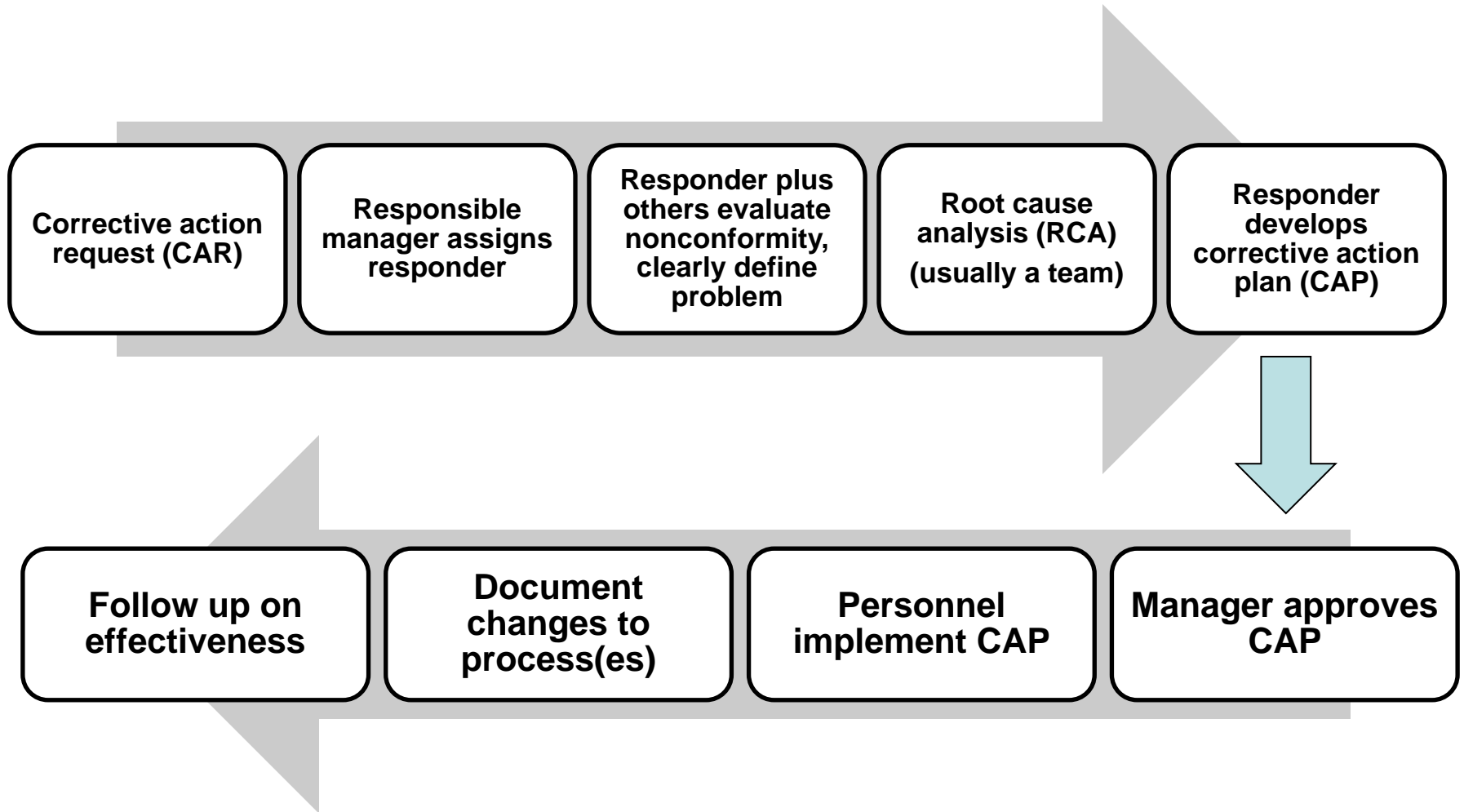


On-site Activities

- Walk through facility
- Review case files (recent)
 - Interview employees
- Review quality system files
 - Interview quality manager
 - Training records
 - Testimony training/testimony review
 - Complaint records
 - Subcontracting records
 - Customer feedback records
- Witnessing - three areas within scope



NEIC's Corrective Action Process





**“It is not enough to do your best;
you must know what to do,
and then do your best.”**

**William Edwards Deming
1900-1993**

Thank you!