



Basic Concepts

- Overview
- Library
- Training & Certification
- Membership
- Links & Other Resources

Search Site

Find

Knowledge Center

- Learn About Quality
- Hot Topics In Quality
- Tools & Resources

Areas of Use

- Education (K-16)
- Government
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Service

You Need...

- Membership
- Training & Certification
- Publications
- Standards Central
- Networking & Events
- ASQ Store
- Careers in Quality

About ASQ

- Media Room

Select another topic: History of Quality

The History of Quality - Guilds of Medieval Europe

- Overview
- Guilds of Medieval Europe**
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Early 20th Century
- World War II
- Total Quality
- Beyond Total Quality

From the end of the 13th century to the early 19th century, craftsmen across medieval Europe were organized into unions called guilds. These guilds were responsible for developing strict rules for product and service quality. Inspection committees enforced the rules by marking flawless goods with a special mark or symbol.

Craftsmen themselves often placed a second mark on the goods they produced. At first this mark was used to track the origin of faulty items. But over time the mark came to represent a craftsman's good reputation. For example, stonemasons' marks symbolized each guild member's obligation to satisfy his customers and enhance the trade's reputation.

Inspection marks and master-craftsmen marks served as proof of quality for customers throughout medieval Europe. This approach to manufacturing quality was dominant until the Industrial Revolution in the early 19th century.

Topic Resources

A collection of materials and information to help you get started, including:

- Overview
- Books
- Training & Certification
- Articles

Plexus Online Software

For Discrete Mfgs: Six Sigma, CAPA, PPAP, APQP, Poka-Yoke & More



American Society Quality

Download Standards available at ANSI eStandards Store