

# Another Approach to Testing: Inspections

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Inspections have proved to be a very powerful white box testing method. Inspections are performed in all phases of the product life cycle starting with the product specifications. (External specifications inspections are an exit criterion for the specifications phase). The inspection goals are 100% for specifications (exit criterion), 50% for product design (for the most critical parts according to the results of the risk and hazard analysis and the product architecture), and 20% for code (most critical parts).

Although there is no defined goal for test design inspections, in practice about 75% of test design (high-level and test procedures just before automation) is inspected formally. Code inspections are performed by two or three engineers. Specifications inspection teams are larger—the crossfunctional team as well as R&D experts are participants. The inspection process has the following steps:

- Kickoff. Distribution of inspection material and logging meeting logistics.
- Logging. All items are logged. Short explanatory discussions are allowed (less than three or four minutes). A moderator and a scribe are always assigned to facilitate the logging meeting. However, there is no chief moderator assigned in our laboratory.
- Follow-up and Rework. This step ensures that all of the fixes and clarifications that were identified as necessary in the logging meeting are done and all items are addressed. In an informal message to all participants of the logging meeting, all fixes are explained and the reasons for the unfixed issues are discussed.

After extensive training and with massive management support, this inspection process works very well and is a fixed part of the product life cycle.

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