



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM OFFICE
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IN REPLY
REFER TO

December 1, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR DoD STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT Providing Shelf Life Guidance in Military Specifications

In an effort to address some of the problems associated with the care and handling of shelf-life items in storage, we request that specification preparing activities include the paragraph below as guidance in Section 6 of specifications where shelf life is a consideration. The shelf-life is characterized by a time period, which begins with the date of manufacture, date of cure (for elastomeric and rubber products only), date of assembly, or date of pack (subsistence only), and terminates by the date by which an item must be used (expiration date) or subjected to inspection, test, restoration, or disposal.

“6.X Shelf life. This specification covers items where shelf life is a consideration. Specific shelf-life requirements should be specified in the contract or purchase order. The shelf-life codes are contained in the Federal Logistics Information System Total Item Record. Additive information for shelf-life management may be obtained from *DoD 4140.27-M, Shelf-life Management Manual*, or the designated shelf-life Points of Contact (POC). The POC should be contacted in the following order: (1) the Inventory Control Points (ICPs), and (2) the DoD Service and Agency administrators for the DoD Shelf-Life Program. Appropriate POCs for the DoD Shelf-Life Program can be contacted through the DoD Shelf-Life Management website: <http://www.shelflife.hq.dla.mil/>.”

The requirement to include shelf-life guidance in specifications, where applicable, will be included in the next update to MIL-STD-961, “Defense and Program-Unique Specifications Format and Content.” If you have any questions, please contact Steve Lowell at (703) 767-6879 or stephen.lowell@dla.mil.

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for GREGORY E. SAUNDERS
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