

[INCH-POUND]

A-A-2770

January 13, 1992

## COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

### PENCIL, COPYING

The General Services Administration has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description in preference to Federal Specification SS-P-166D, Type III.

This commercial item description covers wood cased copying lead pencils for use as a marking medium on paper.

Intended use - Copying lead pencils are intended for use in duplicator and hectograph work and for writing on legal documents or papers where erasers are forbidden or undesirable.

The pencils shall be one of the following types:

- Type I. Plain.
- Type II. With Mouthpiece.
- Type III. With point protector.
- Type IV. With Mouthpiece and point protector

#### I. Salient characteristics.

A. Pencils shall be wood cased with lead in diameters as specified in section I E. The casing shall be round or hexagonal and finished with a good polish, natural or in a bright colored lacquer. The length of the pencil shall be not less than 6 3/4 inches (See section II A). Mouthpieces and point protectors, when required, shall be suitable for the purpose intended and shall be in accordance with the quality requirements of this commercial item description.

B. The eraser, if required (see Notes section VIII), shall be in accordance with Commercial Item Description A-A-132.

C. Pencils shall produce uniformly dense, opaque marks normally made by pencils, when used on paper. Marks shall be smudge resistant, and shall reproduce clearly.

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D. Leads shall be continuously smooth marking, and shall not crumble or chip, and shall be of such strength and resilience so as to reduce breakage when used properly. The lead shall be indelible and made from graphite and dye composition. The pencil shall write black and copy purple.

E. The hardness and diameters of the leads shall be as follows:

TABLE 1

Degree of hardness	Lead diameter (Range (inches))
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Medium	0.095 to 0.110
Hard	0.090 to 0.110

Diameter shall be uniform throughout the entire length of the lead (see section IIA).

F. The hardness range shall be expressed as a "grade" as defined by ASTM C709. The hardness of the pencil leads shall be such that no inversion shall take place as the density increases from soft to firm for the leads of the same brand. The grades and lack of inversions shall be certified by the vendor to be in conformance with normal commercial practice. The evidence of this conformance shall be available to the government in the form of a chart of line densities for the full range of grades, upon request.

G. Lead shall be centered within the casing and securely bonded (glued) to the casing throughout the entire length. Lead shall be continuously smooth marking, provide clearly visible lines, without crumbling or dust. The lead shall be centered within a tolerance of 0.01 inch the entire length of the pencil.

H. The wood casing shall be straight, the two halves securely bonded (glued) throughout the entire length of the pencil and in conformance with normal commercial practice.

I. Pencils shall be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark, hardness of the lead, and other typical commercial markings.

J. The color of the case shall be in accordance with normal commercial practice.

K. Pencils shall pass the performance test (See section II C).

L. Workmanship. Pencils shall be free from splits, splinter, blisters and any other imperfections which affect the appearance, might impair usage or present a hazard to the end user. Mouthpieces and point protectors shall be free from imperfections

which affect the appearance, usefulness of these items or present a hazard to the end user.

## II. Tests & Measurements.

A. Diameter of lead. Measurements shall be taken at three points (near each end, and the middle) of each specimen. The mean of the three measurements shall determine the conformance of the specimen.

B. Length. Measurements shall be made once per each specimen selected, using a device with precision of at least 0.1 inch.

C. Performance Test. Each sample shall be sharpened (see IID) and tested by drawing three lines of 8 inches under ordinary hand writing pressures. The lines shall show uniformity of color and evenness as required by this specification. When drawing a line, the lead shall work smoothly without grittiness on bond paper.

D. Sharpening Test. When sharpened the wood casing shall not split, splinter or tear, shall present a smooth finish, and the lead shall not crumble or break.

III. Regulatory requirements. The offerer/contractor is encouraged to use recovered materials in accordance with Public Law 94-580, as amended, to the maximum extent practicable.

## IV. Hazardous material requirements.

A. Toxicity. Use of any toxic substance must be in accordance with all applicable federal statutes. The use of any known carcinogens as ingredients is prohibited. The harmful substances shall be defined as the poison and injurious substances as designated in Fed Std. 313. The vendor shall prepare a certification that the pencil conforms to the above requirements.

B. Material safety data sheets. Safety data shall be furnished in accordance with Fed. Std. 313. The pertinent government mailing addresses for submission of data are listed in appendix B of Fed. Std. 313.

C. Labeling. Containers shall be labeled to comply with the "Federal Hazardous Substances Act Regulations", 16 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1500.

## V. Quality assurance requirements.

A. Responsibility for inspection. Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order (see VIII), the supplier is responsible for the performance of all inspection requirements as specified herein. Except as otherwise specified, the supplier may utilize his own facilities or any commercial

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laboratory acceptable to the Government. The Government reserves the right to perform any of the inspections set forth in the specification where such inspections are deemed necessary to assure that supplies and services conform to prescribed requirements.

B. Lot definition. Each lot of pencils shall be inspected for conformance to the requirements herein. Inspection shall be in accordance with MIL-STD-105 using the sampling plans specified below. The lot shall be expressed in pencils manufactured from the same materials, at essentially the same time.

C. Examination of the end item for visual defects. The sample unit for this examination shall be one pencil. A random sample shall be taken from each lot in accordance with Inspection Level S-3. The AQL shall be 2.5 percent defective. Samples shall be examined for defects listed below. Any pencil containing one or more defects shall be rejected.

<u>Examine</u>	<u>Defects</u>
Workmanship	See Workmanship paragraph
Appearance	Not as specified
Material	Not as specified
Casing	Not glued together
Eraser	Loose and not as specified.
Mouthpiece	Missing
Point protector	Missing
Trademark	Missing
Hardness marking	Missing

D. Examination of the end item for dimensional defects. The sample unit for this examination shall be one pencil. A random sample shall be taken from each lot in accordance with Inspection Level S-2. The AQL shall be 2.5 percent defective. Samples shall be examined for defects listed below. Any pencil containing one or more defects shall be rejected.

<u>Examine</u>	<u>Defects</u>
Pencil Length (II.B.)	Not as specified
Diameter of Lead (II.A.)	Not as specified

E. Tests. Sampling for performance testing shall be performed in accordance with MIL-STD-105. The inspection level shall be level S-2 with an AQL of 4.0 percent defective. The sample unit shall be one pencil.

<u>Examine</u>	<u>Defects</u>
Performance Test (II.C.)	Does not comply
Sharpening Test (II.D.)	Does not comply

F. Packaging, Packing, and Marking. Inspection Level S-2 with an AQL of 4.0 percent defective. The sample unit shall be one fully prepared shipping container inspected for conformance with the requirements of section VI.

#### VI. Preparation for delivery.

A. Packaging, and packing. Packaging, and packing shall be as indicated below, unless specified otherwise in the contract or purchase order (see VIII). The normal commercial number of unit packages shall be packed in a close-fitting fiberboard box used commercially for this item and provide product protection against loss and damage during multiple shipments, handling, and storage. The complete pack shall be in compliance with the Uniform Freight Classification and the National Motor Freight Classification. The weight of the shipping container shall not exceed 65 pounds.

B. Marking. Marking shall be as indicated below, unless specified otherwise in the contract or purchase order (see VIII).

1. For Shipment To Civil agencies. In addition to any special marking required by the contract or order, interior packages and exterior shipping containers shall be marked in accordance with Fed. Std. No. 123. Bar code marking is required, unless specified otherwise (See VIII).

2. For Shipment To Military activities. In addition to any special marking required by the contract or order, interior packages and exterior shipping containers shall be marked in accordance with MIL-STD-129. Bar code marking is required, unless specified otherwise (See VIII).

3. Additional marking. The shipping containers shall include any precautionary marking required by the National Motor Freight Classification Item 222, Uniform Freight Classification Rule 41, and Department of Transportation regulations.

#### VII. Applicable documents.

The following documents, of the issues in effect on the date of invitation for bids or request for proposal, form a part of this document to the extent specified herein.

##### A. American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM):

C 709 Standard definitions of terms relating to manufactured carbon and graphite.

ASTM standards are available from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

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B. Public Law and Code of Federal Regulations:

Public Law 94-580 - Use of Recovered Materials

16 CFR Part 1500 - Federal Hazardous Substances  
Labeling Act.

Code of Federal Regulations and Federal Acquisition  
Regulations are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents,  
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

C. National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. Agent:

National Motor Freight Classification.

Application for copies shall be addressed to the American  
Trucking Associations, Inc., Tariff Order Section, 1616 P  
Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., 20036.

D. Uniform Classification Committee Agent:

Uniform Freight Classification.

Application for copies shall be addressed to the Uniform  
Classification Committee, Room 1106, 222 South Riverside  
Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

E. Federal Standards, Specifications, and Commercial Item  
Descriptions:

FED-STD-123 Marking for Domestic Shipment (Civil Agencies)

FED-STD-313 Material Safety Data, Transportation Data and  
Disposal Data for Hazardous Materials Furnished  
to Government Activities.

Commercial Item Description A-A-132 Erasers, Pencil

Federal standards and specifications are available from GSA  
Business Service Centers and Specification and Consumer  
Information Distribution Section, Building 197, Washington  
Navy Yard, Washington DC 20407.

Single copies of this specification and other specifications  
required by activities outside the Federal Government for  
bidding purposes are available without charge from Business  
Service Centers at the General Services Regional Offices in  
Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas  
City, Mo., Fort Worth, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles,  
and Auburn, Washington.



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F. Military Standards:

MIL-STD-105 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes.

MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage.

Military Standards are available from the Standardization Documents Order Dept., Bldg. 4D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.

VIII. Notes.

A. Ordering information. Purchasers shall select the required options permitted herein, and include the following information in procurement documents:

1. Title, number, and date of this commercial item description.
2. Purchaser shall specify the pencil specifications.
3. Purchasers shall specify arrangement for inspection and inspection facilities, if other than specified (See section VI)
4. Purchasers shall specify packaging, packing, and any special marking for shipment, if other than required (See section VI).
5. Identification marking, if other than required.
6. If bar code marking is not required.
7. Material safety data sheets required, in addition to those required by Fed-Std-313.
8. Purchasers shall specify palletization, if required.
9. Purchaser shall specify if Mouthpiece and/or point protector is required.

B. Item Identifiers/Reference Part Number System (For classification use, only):

AA2770 - A (This example describes a pencil,  
Type I, in accordance with CID A-A-2770.)

----- Types:    A. Type I  
                     B. Type II  
                     C. Type III  
                     D. Type IV

MILITARY INTERESTS:

Preparing Activity:  
GSA-FSS

NONE: DOD has determined that no military activity has an official interest in this commercial item description.