

A-A-53536  
24 June 1988

## COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

### EMBEDDING COMPOUND, LABORATORY (Paraffin and Plastic Polymers)

The General Services Administration has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description as a replacement to Military Specification MIL-E-37007A which is cancelled.

This Commercial Item Description covers one type of embedding compound for use in histological laboratories.

#### Salient characteristics:

Shall be an embedding compound for supporting tissue specimens in histological procedures.

Shall consist of a molecularly balanced mixture of highly purified paraffin and plastic polymers.

Shall be suitable to support tissue specimens intended to be sectioned by slicing or cutting with a microtome, razor or sharp knife. The embedding compound shall set clear (i.e. without internal cracking as evidenced by lines running through the solidified wax or excessive external crazing). The embedding compound shall also set without granulation, and shall section easily when embedded with difficult tissues such as bone and cartilage.

Shall consist of varied shaped pellets or flakes. Pellets, if supplied, may vary in diameter from 1/8 to 1-9/16 inches, and in thickness from 1/64 to 3/8 inches. Flakes, if supplied, may vary in length and width from 1/32 to 1-9/16 inches, and in thickness from 1/64 to 3/8 inches.

Shall have paraffin and plastic polymers mixed in proper proportions to provide a melting point not less than 54 degrees Centigrade (C) and not more than 57 degrees C, based on testing procedures in accordance with ASTM D-87 (Melting Point of Petroleum Wax).

AMSC N/A  
DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A. Approved for public release;  
distribution is unlimited.

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Shall have a color rating not less than +23, based on testing procedures in accordance with ASTM D-156 (Saybolt Color of Petroleum Products).

Shall be compatible with solvents (e.g. xylene) and staining techniques presently being used in the histological laboratories.

Workmanship. The embedding compound shall be free from defects which detract from its appearance or impair its serviceability.

Unit. Package (PG). One package containing two and one-half (2.5) pounds of embedding compound, as specified, constitutes one unit. Each package shall be in a suitable container having a moisture barrier liner, e.g., polyethylene or polypropylene.

#### Quality Assurance Provisions.

Responsibility for inspection. Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the contractor is responsible for the performance of all inspection requirements as specified herein. Except as otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the contractor may use his own or any facilities suitable for the performance of the inspection requirements specified herein, unless disapproved by 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 supplies and services conform to prescribed requirements.

Records. Records of examinations and tests performed by or for the contractor shall be maintained by the contractor and made available to the Government upon the Government's request, at any time, or from time to time, during the performance of the contract and for a period of three years after delivery of the supplies to which such records relate.

Inspection. Inspection, as used herein, is defined as both examination (such as visual or auditory investigation without the use of special laboratory appliances or procedures) and testing (determination by technical means of physical and chemical properties) of the item.

Inspections and tests. Inspections and tests shall be conducted in accordance with commercial practice to determine compliance with specification requirements.

Sampling for inspection and tests. Sampling for inspections and tests shall be conducted in accordance with commercial practice.

Metric products. Products manufactured to metric dimensions will be considered on an equal basis with those manufactured using inch-pound units, providing they fall within the tolerances specified using conversion tables contained in the latest revision of Federal Standard 376, and all other requirements if this document are met.

If a product is manufactured to metric dimensions and those dimensions exceed the tolerances specified in the inch/pound units, a request should be made to the contracting officer to determine if the product is acceptable.

The contracting officer has the option of accepting or rejecting the product.

Contractor certification. The contractor shall certify that the product offered meets the salient characteristics of this description and conforms to the producer's own drawings, specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices. The Government reserves the right to require proof of such conformance prior to first delivery and thereafter as may be otherwise provided for under the provisions of the contract.

Regulatory requirements.

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. If the product covered by this document has been determined by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration to be under its jurisdiction, the offeror/contractor shall comply, and be responsible for compliance by its subcontractors/suppliers, with the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder. In addition, the offeror/contractor shall comply, and be responsible for compliance by its subcontractors/suppliers, with the requirements of all other applicable Federal, State, and local statutes, ordinances, and regulations.

Recovered materials. The offeror/contractor is encouraged to use recovered material in accordance with Public Law 94-580 to the maximum extent practical.

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Preservation, packaging, packing, labeling, and marking. Unless otherwise specified, preservation, packaging, and packing shall be to a degree of protection to preclude damage to containers and/or contents thereof under normal shipping conditions, handling, etc., involving shipment from the supply source to the receiving activity, plus reshipment from receiving activity, and shall conform to applicable carrier's rules and regulations. Intermediate and exterior package quantities and labeling and marking shall be as specified in the contract and/or order.

NOTE: The following National Stock Number is covered by this document:

6640-00-549-6682

Ordering data. (Intermediate/exterior package quantities, labeling, and marking must be specified in the contract and/or order).

MILITARY INTERESTS:

PREPARING ACTIVITY:

Custodians:

DoD - MB

Army - MD

AGENT:

Navy - MS

Air Force - 03

DLA-DM

CIVIL AGENCY COORDINATING ACTIVITIES:

VA-OSS

PHS

FDA-MPQAS

Project No. 6640-1464

Location: Disk # 10

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**NOTE** This form may not be used to request copies of documents, nor to request waivers, deviations, or clarification of specification requirements on current contracts. Comments submitted on this form do not constitute or imply authorization to waive any portion of the referenced document(s) or to amend contractual requirements.

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# STANDARDIZATION DOCUMENT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL

(See Instructions - Reverse Side)

1 DOCUMENT NUMBER

A-A-53536

2 DOCUMENT TITLE

EMBEDDING COMPOUND, LABORATORY (Paraffin and Plastic Polymers)

3a NAME OF SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION

4 TYPE OF ORGANIZATION (Mark one)

VENDOR

USER

MANUFACTURER

OTHER (Specify)

b ADDRESS (Street City State ZIP Code)

3 PROBLEM AREAS

a Paragraph Number and Wording

b Recommended Wording

c Reason/Rationale for Recommendation

6 REMARKS

7a NAME OF SUBMITTER (Last First MI) - Optional

b WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) - Optional

c MAILING ADDRESS (Street City State ZIP Code) - Optional

8 DATE OF SUBMISSION (YYMMDD)