

A-A-54098
30 March 1990

COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

WASHCLOTH

The General Services Administration has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description as a replacement for Military Specification MIL-W-36241 which is cancelled.

This Commercial Item Description covers a disposable washcloth.

Salient characteristics:

The washcloth shall be a commercially available disposable washcloth, not less than 136 square inches in area, and not less than 10-1/2 inches in one direction, suitable for use by hospitalized patients for complete bathing and face washing procedures during a twenty-four hour period.

The nonwoven fabric shall be fabricated of bleached pulp and latex binder. The color of the material shall be white. The nonwoven fabric shall be soft, have a good hand (feel) and shall be non-irritating and non-toxic. The nonwoven fabric shall have a linen-like embossed pattern. The fabric shall have the following properties:

Weight - 3.0 ounces/square yard minimum

Thickness - 0.165 inch minimum (8 plies)

Dry Tensile Strength

Machine direction - 892 grams/inch minimum
Cross direction - 686 grams/inch minimum

Wet Tensile Strength

Machine direction - 446 grams/inch minimum
Cross direction - 384 grams/inch minimum

AMSC N/A

FSC 7210

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

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Absorptive capacity - 5.8 times its own weight minimum
 Absorptive rate - 2.0 seconds minimum
 Brightness - 73 percent minimum

The finished washcloth shall have the following properties:

- a. Shall not tear, shred, or leave lint on unshaven face during washing, nor disintegrate or ball up during bathing when wet with soap and water.
- b. Shall have a good friction effect against the flesh when wet with soap and water but shall not be irritating or abrasive to the skin. Shall not become slippery and difficult to handle when wet and soaped.
- c. Shall be water insoluble, withstand sterilization by steam, and shall not acquire a dirty or oily appearance after being wet with water and soap.
- d. Shall retain original shape, appearance and properties after initial use so as to be suitable for intermittent use by patient.
- e. Shall be free of toxic substance and objectionable or unpleasant odors when wet or dry.

The washcloth shall be tested using the following standards from American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), and American National Standards Institute (ANSI):

<u>Property</u>	<u>Test</u>
Weight	ASTM D-1910-64
Thickness	TAPPI-T411 OS76
Dry tensile Strength	TAPPI-T494 OM81
wet Tensile Strength	TAPPI-T494 OM81
Absorptive capacity/rate	ANSI/ASTM-D1117-77
Brightness	TAPPI-T452 OS-77

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Certificates of quality, supplied by the manufacturer of the materials may be furnished in lieu of actual performance of such testing by the contractor. The certificate shall include the name of the contractor, the contract number, the name of the manufacturer or supplier, the NSN, the item identification, the name of the component/material, the lot number, the lot size, the sample size, the date of testing, the test method, individual test results, and the specification requirements. A certificate of compliance shall be acceptable in lieu of a certificate of quality, provided the manufacturer can establish that adequate controls were applied to assure compliance with the specification requirements.

The washcloths shall be free from any holes, tears or cuts, acids, chemicals, detergents, or any other ingredient that shall impair the bonding, serviceability, or use. The washcloths shall not contain any spot of oil or grease, fiber clump, insect, smudge, dirt, sharp object, bonding material strike-through, congealed mass of the bonding material, or spot or stain resulting from excess bonding material.

One thousand washcloths shall be furnished clean and dry. The washcloths shall be individually folded into a square or may be flat-packaged. The washcloths shall be neatly stacked, and stacks of fifty or one hundred washcloths shall be wrapped or bagged in polyethylene. The closure of the bag or wrap shall be secured by heat sealing or by other suitable means. The bag shall have a minimum 1/8 inch diameter hole at one corner of the bag.

Workmanship. The disposable washcloth shall be free from defects which detract from its appearance or impair its serviceability.

Unit. Package (PG). One package containing one thousand washcloths, as specified, constitutes one unit. Each washcloth shall be individually folded or flat-packed.

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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.

Sampling for examination. Sampling for examination shall be conducted in accordance with MIL-STD-105, with an AQL of 4.0 (percent defective) and an inspection level of S-3. The unit of product for examination purposes shall be one disposable washcloth.

Sampling for tests (washcloth). Sampling for dimensional tests, shall be conducted in accordance with MIL-STD-105, with an AQL of 4.0 (percent defective) and an inspection level of S-3. The unit of product for test purposes shall be one disposable washcloth.

Sampling for tests (fabric). Sampling for the testing of the fabric shall be as follows:

<u>Lot size (yards)</u>	<u>Sample size</u>
800 or less	2
801 and up to and including 22,000	3
22,001 and over	5

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The sample unit of fabric for test purposes shall be one linear yard of the fabric. The samples shall be taken from the beginning of each roll. The lot shall be unacceptable if one or more sample units fail to meet any of the fabric property requirements.

Tests. Tests shall be conducted to determine compliance with specification requirements. Where feasible, the same sample shall be used for the determination of two or more test characteristics. Tests shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

Tests (fabric).

Weight test. The washcloth material shall be tested for weight in accordance with ASTM D-1910-64. A weight less than 3.0 ounces per square yard shall constitute a failure.

Thickness test. The washcloth fabric thickness shall be tested in accordance with TAPPI-T411 OS76. Eight plies shall be measured using a dial micrometer and reported as thousandths of an inch. An eight-ply thickness of less than 0.165 inch shall constitute a failure.

Dry tensile strength test. The washcloth fabric shall be tested for dry tensile strength in accordance with TAPPI-T494-OM81. Any result less than 892 grams per inch in the machine direction or 686 grams per inch in the cross direction shall constitute a failure.

Wet tensile strength test. The washcloth fabric shall be tested for wet tensile strength in accordance with TAPPI-T494-OM81. The wet tensile test sample preparation and test procedure is the same as for the dry except that, prior to testing, the middle or center of the test strip shall be wet with room temperature water for a period of 30 seconds. Any result less than 446 grams per inch in the machine direction or 384 grams per inch in the cross direction shall constitute a failure.

Absorptive capacity test and absorptive rate test. The washcloth material shall be tested for absorptive capacity and absorptive rate in accordance with ANSI/ASTM D 1117-77. The same test samples shall be used for the absorptive capacity test as were used for the absorptive rate test. The absorptive capacity shall be reported as the ratio of the water held to the weight of the dry sample. An absorptive rate less than 2.0 seconds or an absorptive capacity less than 5.8 shall constitute a failure.

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Brightness test. The washcloth material shall be tested for brightness in accordance with TAPPI-T452 OS-77. A result less than 73 percent shall constitute a failure.

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 of 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 producers' 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, as amended, and as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 23.4 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.

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

NOTES: 1. The following National Stock Number is covered by this document:

7210-01-013-2824

2. The nonwoven fabric from Fort Howard Paper Company, Grade 868, has previously been found to be acceptable.

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. 7210-0285

Location:

CID/WASHCLOTH/DISPOSABLE/H13-36

STANDARDIZATION DOCUMENT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL (See Instructions - Reverse Side)	
1 DOCUMENT NUMBER A-A-54098	2 DOCUMENT TITLE WASHCLOTH
3a NAME OF SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION	
b ADDRESS (Street City State ZIP Code)	
4 TYPE OF ORGANIZATION (Mark one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> VENDOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> USER	
<input type="checkbox"/> MANUFACTURER	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):	
5 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)	

INSTRUCTIONS In a continuing effort to make our standardization documents better, the DoD provides this form for use in submitting comments and suggestions for improvements. All users of military standardization documents are invited to provide suggestions. This form may be detached, folded along the lines indicated, taped along the loose edge (**DO NOT STAPLE**), and mailed. In block 5, be as specific as possible about particular problem areas such as wording which required interpretation, was too rigid, restrictive, loose, ambiguous, or was incompatible, and give proposed wording changes which would alleviate the problems. Enter in block 6 any remarks not related to a specific paragraph of the document. If block 7 is filled out an acknowledgement will be mailed to you within 30 days to let you know that your comments were received and are being considered.

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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