

**[INCH-POUND]  
A-A-55235A  
March 8, 2000  
SUPERSEDING  
A-A-55235  
October 15, 1993**

## COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

### TARPAULIN, COTTON DUCK, 20 FEET BY 20 INCHES

The General Services Administration has authorized the use of this commercial item description as a replacement for MIL-C-43389 for all federal agencies.

1. Scope. This document covers a 20 foot by 20 inch tarpaulin. The tarpaulin is designed to cover the junction where two shelters are placed end to end.

2. Classification. The tarpaulin shall be made in one size.

3. Salient characteristics.

\*3.1 Description. The tarpaulin shall be comprised of a one piece main body panel and two separate lengths of tie-down ropes (see Figure 1). The tarpaulin shall conform to the requirements of Drawing 5-10-40. The tarpaulin shall be constructed from a single piece of cloth. Splicing of the main body panel shall not be permitted. All stitching shall conform to type 301 of ASTM-D-6193, 5 to 7 stitches per inch.

3.2 Materials.

\*3.2.1 Cloth, duck, cotton.. The cloth for the tarpaulin shall be greige (unbleached) plain weave cotton duck, 8.25 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>. The warp yarns shall be plied and the filling yarns shall be singles or plied. The cloth shall be water and mildew resistant. The color of the cloth shall be Camouflage Green 483 conforming to color chip 34094 of FED-STD-595, Colors Used in Government Procurement.

Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and any pertinent data which may be of use in improving this document should be addressed to: Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Clothing and Textiles Directorate, Attn: DSCP-CNR, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5096.
---

AMSC N/A

FSC 8340

## A-A-55235A

\*3.2.2 Physical requirements. The finished tarpaulin cloth shall conform to the requirements specified in Table I.

TABLE I. Physical Requirements

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Requirements</u>	
	(min)	(max)
Weight Oz/yd <sup>2</sup>	8.25	9.25
Breaking Strength, lbs. (Min)		
Warp	125	---
Filling	120	---
Tearing Strength, g. (Min)		
Warp	4.0	---
Filling	3.0	---
Air permeability (ft <sup>3</sup> /min/ft <sup>2</sup> )	---	4.0

3.2.3 Thread, polyester. The thread shall be polyester, twisted soft multiple cord, 90 tex, 4-ply yarn with a minimum breaking strength of 10.6 lbs. and a final twist of 5.0 turns per inch (min). The color of the thread shall be Camouflage Green 483.

3.2.4 Rope, tie down. The tie-down ropes shall be fabricated from manila, sisal, polyester or 3 strand, dual fiber polyester/polypropylene with a diameter of 5/16 inch. The finished length of each tie down rope shall be 25 feet  $\pm$  3 inches. Each end of tie-down rope shall be machine stitched using stitch type 304 or 308, 12 to 16 stitches per inch. The stitching shall extend at least 1 ½ inches from the free end of the rope. The color shall be natural.

\*3.2.5 Stitching. All stitching shall conform to type 301 of ASTM-D-6193, 5 to 7 stitches per inch.

3.2.6 Stitching margin. Unless otherwise specified, all stitch margins shall be 1/8  $\pm$  1/16 inch.

\*3.3 Labels. A commercial-type label is acceptable, provided that an additional printed label containing the contractor's name, contract number, size and National Stock Number (NSN) is caught on the stitching of the commercial label. The paper for the label shall be standard bleached sulfate having a basis weight of 100 pounds. The paper used for the label shall have a smooth finish to accept thermal transfer and direct printing. The commercial label shall include fiber and laundering information.

3.4 Label/tag. Each item shall be individually bar-coded with a paper tag. The paper tag shall be standard bleached sulfate having a basis weight of 100 pounds. The paper used for the tags shall have a smooth finish to accept thermal transfer and direct printing. The tags shall have a hole and shall be attached to each item by a fastener, clearly legible and

## A-A-55235A

readable by a scanner. The bar coding element shall be a 13 digit national stock number (NSN). The bar code type shall be a medium to high code density and shall be located so that it is completely visible on the item when it is folded and/or packaged as specified and so that it causes no damage to the item.

3.5 Workmanship. The finished tarpaulins shall conform to the quality of product established by this document. The occurrence of defects shall not exceed the applicable acceptable quality levels.

#### 4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.

4.1 Recycled, recovered, or environmentally preferable materials. Recycled, recovered, or environmentally preferable materials should be used to the maximum extent possible provided that the material meets or exceeds the operational and maintenance requirements and promotes economically advantageous life cycle costs.

#### 5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

\*5.1 Product conformance. The products provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this commercial item description and conform to the producer's own drawings, specifications, standards and quality assurance practices. The Government reserves the right to require proof of such conformance.

\*5.2 End item testing. Testing shall be performed for the characteristics specified in Table II. All test reports shall contain the individual values utilized in expressing the final result. The sample unit shall be 3 yards full width of the basic cloth.

Table II End item tests

Characteristics	Test method
Weight	ASTM-D-3776 Method C (small swatch of fabric method)
Breaking strength	ASTM-D-5034 (G-T or G-E)
Tearing Strength	ASTM-D-1424
Air permeability	ASTM-D-737
-----	

5.3 Defects. The tarpaulin shall be examined for the following defects:

## A-A-55235A

<u>Examine</u>	<u>Defect</u>
Fabric:	Any smash, weak place, broken or missing yarns, multiple floats or open places; shade bar, or fine or course filling bar; hole, cut or tear.
Tie-down rope:	Cut or abrasion; free end of rope not finished as specified; any tie rope omitted; tie rope caught in hem stitching restricting movement within hem.
Seams and stitching:	Open seams; run-offs; thread breaks overstitched less than 1 inch; needle chews.
Seam & stitch type:	Wrong seam or stitch type.
Stitch tension:	Loose, resulting in a loosely exposed top or bottom thread; tight, resulting in excessive tightness or puckering of fabric.
Stitches/inch:	One stitch less than minimum specified; two or more stitches less than minimum specified; one or more stitches in excess of maximum specified; Stitching margins not as specified; stitching ends overstitched less than one inch (except where ends are held down by other stitching or turned under in a hem.
Stitching margins; stitching gage	Not as specified.
Hems:	Twisted or pleated.
Body panel:	Any splice.
Repairs:	Not in accordance with Department of The Army TM 10-269 when authorized by the contracting officer.
Markings:	Omitted, incorrect, illegible, misplaced or size characters not as specified.
Cleanness:	Grease or oil stains, thread ends not trimmed throughout.

5.4 Dimensional examination. The tarpaulin shall conform to the dimensions in Figure 1. Any dimension not within the specified tolerance shall be classified as a defect.

5.5 Acceptance criteria. Acceptance criteria shall be as specified in the contract or purchase order.

## 6. PACKAGING

A-A-55235A

\*6.1 Preservation, packing and marking. The preservation, packing and marking shall be as specified in the contract or order.

## 7. NOTES

\*7.1 Tarpaulin. This tarpaulin is a commercial-type item which is designed to cover the junction where two shelters are placed end to end.

\*7.2 Source of Government Documents. Copies of Military and Federal documents are available from:

Document Automation and Production Service  
Bldg. 4D (DPM-DODSSP)  
700 Robbins Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094

Department of the Army Field Manual FM 10-16 – General Repair of Tents, Canvas and Webbing

(Applications for copies should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402)

\*7.3 Sources of Nongovernment Documents.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

ASTM-D-737 – Air Permeability of Textile Fabrics  
ASTM-D-1424 – Tearing Strength of Fabrics by Falling-Pendulum Type  
(Elmendorf) Apparatus  
ASTM-D-3776 – Mass per Unit Area (Weight) of Fabric  
ASTM-D-5034 – Breaking Strength and Elongation of Textile Fabrics  
ASTM-D-6193 – Standard Practice for Stitches and Seams

(Applications for copies of referenced documents should be addressed to the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19426-2959.)

7.4 Standard sample. For access to the standard sample, address the procuring activity issuing the invitation for bids.

\*7.5 Changes from previous issue. The margins of this document have been marked with an asterisk(\*) to indicate where changes (additions, modifications, corrections, deletions) from the previous issue were made. This was done as a convenience only and the Government assumes no liability whatsoever for any inaccuracies in these notations. Bidders and contractors are cautioned to evaluate the requirements of this document based on the entire content, as written, irrespective of the marginal notations and relationship to the last previous issue.

A-A-55235A

Custodians:  
Army - GL  
Navy - MC  
Air Force – 99

CIVIL AGENCY COORDINATING ACTIVITY:  
GSA - FSS

Review activities:  
Army – MD

Preparing activity:  
DLA-CT

Project No. 8340-0576

A-A-55235A

**STANDARDIZATION DOCUMENT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL****INSTRUCTIONS**

1. The preparing activity must complete blocks 1, 2, 3, and 8. In block 1, both the document number and revision letter should be given.
2. The submitter of this form must complete blocks 4, 5, 6, and 7 and send to preparing activity.
3. The preparing activity must provide a reply within 30 days from receipt of the form.

NOTE: This form may not be used to request copies of documents, nor to request waivers, or clarification of 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.

<b>I RECOMMEND A CHANGE:</b>		<b>1. DOCUMENT NUMBER</b> A-A-55235A	<b>2. DOCUMENT DATE (YYYYMMDD)</b> 2000/03/08
<b>3. DOCUMENT TITLE</b>			
<b>4. NATURE OF CHANGE</b> <i>(Identify paragraph number and include proposed rewrite, if possible. Attach extra sheets as needed.)</i>			
<b>5. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>			
<b>6. SUBMITTER</b>			
a. NAME <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i>		b. ORGANIZATION	
c. ADDRESS <i>(Include Zip Code)</i>		d. TELEPHONE <i>(Include Area Code)</i> (1) Commercial  (2) DSN <i>(If applicable)</i>	7. DATE SUBMITTED (YYYYMMDD)
<b>8. PREPARING ACTIVITY</b>			
a. NAME DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA DSCP-CNRP		b. TELEPHONE <i>(Include Area Code)</i> (1) Commercial (2) DSN (215) 737-3290 444-3290	
c. ADDRESS <i>(Include Zip Code)</i> 700 Robbins Ave (Bldg 6, C&T) PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111-5092		<b>IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A REPLY WITHIN 45 DAYS, CONTACT:</b> Defense Standardization Program Office (DLSC-LM) 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 2533 Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-6221 Telephone (703) 767-6888 DSN 427-6888	

**DD Form 1426, FEB 1999 (EG)**  
WHS/DIOR, Feb 99

PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE