

MIL-C-83873
31 Mar 1991

MILITARY SPECIFICATION

CLEANING COMPOUND, PRECOATING SURFACE, AIRCRAFT AND AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT (AGE)

This specification is approved for use by all
Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense

1. SCOPE.

1.1 Scope. This specification establishes the requirements for biodegradable, enzyme based, precoating surface cleaners.

2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

2.1 Government Documents.

2.1.1 Specifications, Standards, and Handbooks. The following specifications, standards and handbooks form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise specified, the issues of these documents shall be those listed in the issue of the Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS) and supplement thereto, noted in the solicitation.

SPECIFICATIONS

Federal

O-A-51	Acetone, Technical
P-D-680	Dry Cleaning Solvent
QQ-A-250/4	Aluminum Alloy, 2024, Plate and Sheet
QQ-A-250/5	Aluminum Alloy, Alclad 2024 Plate and Sheet
QQ-A-250/12	Aluminum Alloy, 7075, Plate and Sheet
QQ-A-250/13	Aluminum Alloy, Alclad, 7075 Plate and Sheet
QQ-M-44	Magnesium Alloy, Plate and Sheet (AZ31B)
TT-C-2756	Coating: Self-priming Topcoat, Low VOC
TT-E-529	Enamel, Alkyd Semi-gloss Low VOC
TT-I-735	Isopropyl Alcohol

Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and any pertinent data which may be of use in improving this document should be addressed to: Code (68) SA-ALC/SFRT, Kelly AFB TX 78241-5000, by using the self-addressed Standardization Document Improvement Proposal (DD Form 1426) appearing at the end of this document or by letter.

AMSC N/A

FSC 6850

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

MIL-C-83873

TT-M-261	Methyl Ethyl Ketone, Technical
TT-P-2760	Primer: Flexible, Polyurethane
PPP-B-601	Boxes, Wood, Cleated-Plywood
PPP-B-636	Boxes, Shipping, Fiberboard
PPP-D-729	Drums, Shipping and Storage, Steel, 55 Gallons
PPP-F-320	Fiberboard, Corrugated and Solid, Sheet Stock (Container Grade), and Cut Shapes
PPP-P-704	Pails, Metal: (Shipping, Steel, 1 through 12 gallons)

Military

MIL-M-3171	Magnesium Alloy, Processes for Pretreatment and Prevention of Corrosion on
MIL-P-5425	Plastic Sheet, Acrylic, Heat Resistant
MIL-C-5541	Chemical Conversion Coating of Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys
MIL-S-7952	Steel, Sheet and Strip, Uncoated, Carbon (1020 and 1025) (Aircraft Quality) (ASG)
MIL-A-8625	Anodic Coatings, for Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys
MIL-T-9046	Titanium and Titanium Alloy, Sheet, Strip and (For Aircraft Use)
MIL-A-9962	Abrasive Mats, Non-woven, Non-metallic
MIL-P-23377	Primer Coating, Epoxy Polyamide, Chemical and Solvent Resistant
MIL-P-25690	Plastic, Sheets and Parts, Modified Acrylic Base, Monolithic, Crack Propagation Resistant
MIL-C-38334	Corrosion Removing Compound, Prepaint, for Aircraft Aluminum Surfaces
MIL-H-83282	Hydraulic Fluid, Fire Resistant, Synthetic Hydrocarbon Base, Aircraft, NATO Code No. H-537
MIL-C-83286	Coating Urethane, Aliphatic Isocyanate, for Aerospace Application
MIL-P-83310	Plastic Sheet, Polycarbonate, Transparent
MIL-P-85582	Type I, Class II Primer Coatings: Epoxy, Waterborne

STANDARDS

Federal

FED-STD-141	Paint, Varnish, Lacquer and Related Materials Methods of Inspection, Sampling and Testing
FED-STD-313	Material Safety Data Sheets, Preparation and the Submission of
FED-STD-595	Color

MIL-C-83873

Military

MIL-STD-109 Quality Assurance Terms and Definitions
 MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage
 MIL-STD-147 Palletized Unit Loads

(Applications for copies of specifications, standards, drawings, and publications required by contractors in connection with specific procurement functions should be addressed to the Standardization Documents Order Desk, Building 4D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094).

2.1.2 Other Government Documents, Drawings, and Publications. The following other Government documents form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise specified, the issue shall be that in effect on the date of the solicitation.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

40 CFR - Protection of Environment
 29 CFR - OSHA Safety and Health Standards (1910)

(Applications for copies should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402.)

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) STANDARDS

EPA 420.1 Colormetric Test for Total Phenol

(Applications for copies should be addressed to the USEPA, Environmental Monitoring and Support Laboratory, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.)

2.2 Other Publications. The following documents form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

ASTM Standards

D 93	Test for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Tester
A 153	Zinc Coating (Hot Dip) on iron and steel Hardware
D 460	Chemical Analysis of Soaps
D 846	Xylene
D 3951	Commercial Packaging, Practice for
E 70	pH of Aqueous Solutions with the Glass Electrode
F 483	Total Immersion Corrosion Test for Aircraft Maintenance Chemicals

MIL-C-83873

F 484	Stress Craze Test of Acrylic Plastics in Contact with Liquid and Semi-Liquid Compounds
F 485	Effects of Cleaners on Unpainted Aircraft Surfaces
F 502	Effects of Cleaning and Chemical Maintenance Materials on Painted Aircraft Surfaces
F 503	Preparing Aircraft Cleaning Compounds, Liquid Type, for Storage Stability Testing
F 519	Mechanical Hydrogen Embrittlement Testing of Plating Processes and Aircraft Maintenance Chemicals
F 1110	Test Method for Sandwich Corrosion Test
F 1111	Corrosion of Low Embrittling Cadmium Plate by Aircraft Maintenance Chemicals

The latest revision for each specification shall be used.
(Application for copies should be addressed to the American Society for Testing and Materials, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19103.)

Uniform Freight Classification Rules (Current Issue)

(Application for copies should be addressed to the Uniform Classification Committee, Room 1106, 222 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606.)

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE

AISI Standards

AISI 4340 High Strength, Low Alloy Steel

(Industry association specifications and standards are generally available for reference from libraries. They are also distributed among technical groups and using Federal agencies.)

2.3 Order of Precedence. In the event of a conflict between the text of this specification and the reference cited herein, the text of this specification shall take precedence.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Qualification

3.1.1 Qualification (Initial). The cleaning compound furnished under this specification shall be a product which has been tested and has passed the qualification tests specified herein and has been listed or approved for listing on the applicable Qualified Products List (QPL).

MIL-C-83873

3.1.2 Qualification (Periodic). The cleaning compound furnished under this specification must be retested or recertified by the qualifying activity at least every three years for the product to remain listed on the QPL. Qualification retesting will be accomplished on any qualified cleaning compound for which a using activity issues a valid material deficiency report. The cleaning compound will also be subject to qualification retesting for any change in chemical formulation, material, process, or procedure in manufacturing the cleaning compound. Any cleaning compound which does not conform to all the qualification tests specified herein on periodic requalification testing will be removed from the QPL.

3.2 Materials. The composition and formulation of the cleaning compound shall be optional with the manufacturer within the restrictions specified herein.

3.2.1 Unacceptable Materials. The cleaning compounds shall not contain any chlorinated compounds, phosphates, abrasives, chromates, phenols, cresols, terpenes, amines, petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, mercury, cadmium, or chromium. The following materials are unacceptable unless they are being used as an essential active ingredient in the cleaner: sodium chloride, urea, sodium sulfate, nitrates, or nitrites. It also shall not contain any chemical listed by the current report of known carcinogens of the National Toxicology Program (NTP), or any hazardous compounds as defined in 40 CFR 261. (See paragraph 4.8.).

3.2.2 Acceptable Materials. The cleaning compound shall consist of a stable, homogeneous product, composed of one or more of the materials listed below. Certification from the manufacturer as to the composition of the cleaning compound is required.

Bioenzyme mixture and nutrients
Surfactants
Corrosion Inhibitors
Buffers

3.3 Toxicity. The cleaning compound shall have no adverse effect on the health of personnel when used for its intended purpose and with proper personal protective equipment (when required). The cleaner must be evaluated and approved by the Air Force for proper toxicity limits prior to listing on the QPL.

3.3.1 Formulation. The manufacturer must submit to the qualifying activity, SA-ALC/SPTT, Kelly AFB TX 78241-5000, each of the following:

a. Written certification that the cleaning compound contains no substance known to be toxic as defined in 29 CFR and 40 CFR as of the date of qualification or requalification of the product.

MIL-C-83873

b. A complete formulation including the chemical name and weight percent of each ingredient. Trade names alone are not satisfactory. All proprietary information will be protected as such.

3.3.2 Material Safety Data Sheet. The manufacturer shall submit a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each component of the product and for the finished product to the qualifying and procuring activities. The MSDS shall be prepared in accordance with the latest revision of FED-STD-313.

3.3.3 Toxicological Data. The manufacturer shall submit a copy of pertinent toxicological data/information on their product to the qualifying activity. (See paragraph 4.7).

3.3.4 Biodegradability. The supplier of the cleaning compound shall furnish certification from the surfactant manufacturer(s) that the surfactants are readily biodegradable in accordance with 40 CFR, Part 796, Subpart D. Biodegradability testing shall be accomplished as specified in paragraph 4.7.1 on the finished product. Biodegradability on the finished product shall be determined over 28 days by the Shake Flask Method monitored by analysis of Total Organic Carbon (TOC). The product will conform to a minimum of 85% biodegradable at the end of the 28 day period.

3.4 Compositional Assurance. The cleaning compound shall be tested for non-volatile matter as specified in paragraph 4.6.1. Results of this test as well as an infrared spectrogram of the non-volatile matter (see 4.9) shall be recorded by the qualifying activity for use in quality conformance inspections (see 4.4). Quality conformance inspection results for non-volatile matter shall not differ by more than 2 percent absolute from this recorded value. Quality conformance inspection infrared spectrograms shall show no significant difference when compared to the original qualifying spectrogram.

3.5 Chemical Properties.

3.5.1 Chemical Requirements. The cleaning compound shall meet the requirements listed in Table I.

3.5.2 Volatility. The volatility of a 6 percent solution of the cleaning compound (mixed with distilled water) shall be less than or equal to the volatility of distilled water when tested in accordance with 4.6.4.

3.5.3 Residue Rinsibility. When a freshly prepared solution of the cleaning compound is tested in accordance with 4.6.5, it shall not leave any residue or stains. (A freshly prepared solution is defined as one being prepared no longer than 30 minutes prior to testing.) Weight change shall be no greater than that obtained with standard hard water (plus or minus 0.2 mg) tested under the same conditions.

MIL-C-83873

3.5.4 Solvent Content. The cleaning compound shall not contain more than 3.0 weight percent of organic solvents when tested in accordance with 4.6.18.

3.6 Physical Properties

3.6.1 Heat Stability. The concentrated cleaning compound, when tested in accordance with 4.6.6, will show no marked color change or precipitation and shall not corrode or stain the low carbon test strip. Layering or separation will constitute failure if it does not return to its original homogeneous state after cooling.

TABLE I. Quantitative requirements

REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX	TEST METHOD
Insoluble Matter (wt%)	--	0.05	4.6.2
pH			
6% Solution (15:1)	7.0	8.5	4.6.3
Conc. Solution	7.5	9.0	
Flash Point, °C	None to IBP (Initial Boiling Point)		4.6.8
Emulsion Characteristics	--	--	4.6.9
Hard Water Stability (ppm silica)	--	20.0	4.6.10

3.6.2 Cold Stability. The concentrated cleaning compound shall return to its original homogeneous condition when tested in accordance with 4.6.7.

3.7 Effect On Metals.

3.7.1 Hydrogen Embrittlement. When tested in accordance with 4.6.11, the concentrated cleaner and a six (6) percent solution of the cleaner in distilled water shall not cause hydrogen embrittlement of cadmium plated AISI 4340 steel.

3.7.2 Total Immersion Corrosion. When tested in accordance with 4.6.12, the concentrated cleaning compound and a six (6) percent solution of the cleaning compound in distilled water shall not cause pitting corrosion or cause a weight change of an average of three (3) test panels greater than shown in Table II.

MIL-C-83873

3.7.3 Low-embrittling Cadmium Plate Corrosion. Steel panels coated with low-embrittling cadmium plate immersed in the concentrated cleaning compound and a six (6) percent solution of the cleaning compound in distilled water shall not show a weight change greater than 0.14 mg/cm^2 for 24 hours when tested in accordance with 4.6.13.

TABLE II. Total Immersion Corrosion Requirements

Alloy	Average of 3 Panels Weight Loss, Max (mg/cm^2 /24 hrs)
Magnesium (AZ 31B-H24) QQ-M-44 surface treated in accordance with Type II of MIL-M-3171	0.03
Aluminum, QQ-A-250/4, T3 surface treated in accordance with Type II, Class I of MIL-A-8625	0.03
Aluminum, QQ-A-250/4, Bare T3 Alloy	0.03
Aluminum, QQ-A-250/12, Bare T6 Alloy	0.03
Titanium, MIL-T-9046, 6AL-4V Class III, Composition C	0.05
Steel, MIL-S-7952, Hot Dip Galvanize per ASTM A 153 Class A, B or C	0.32
Steel, MIL-S-7952, Grade 1020	0.22

3.7.4 Effects on Unpainted Metal Surfaces. A six (6) percent solution of the cleaning compound in distilled water shall not cause streaking, stains or other deposits that cannot be easily removed with water when tested in accordance with 4.6.14.

MIL-C-83873

3.7.5 Sandwich Corrosion. When tested in accordance with 4.6.19, the cleaning compound shall not cause a corrosion rating greater than one (1) on any test panel.

3.7.6 Wet Adhesion Tape Test. A six (6) percent solution of the cleaning compound, when used as directed, shall remove soil from a painted surface in preparation for repainting such that paint applied after cleaning with the compound will adhere to the surface when tested in accordance with 4.6.21.

3.8 Effect on Painted Surfaces. The concentrated cleaning compound and a six (6) percent solution of the cleaning compound in distilled water shall not cause streaking, blistering, discoloration or a permanent decrease in film hardness of more than one pencil hardness level when tested in accordance with 4.6.15.

3.9 Stress Cracking of Aircraft Transparencies. A six (6) percent solution by volume of the cleaning compound in distilled water shall not cause stress cracking or staining acrylic plastics when tested in accordance with 4.6.16.

3.10 Long-term Storage Stability. After being stored for a period of 12 months, in accordance with 4.6.17, the cleaning compound shall not separate, precipitate or cause corrosion of the shipping container and shall meet all requirements of this specification.

3.11 Foaming Properties. The cleaning compound, when tested as specified in 4.6.20, shall produce a stabilized foam which shall not break down nor produce more than 80 ml of liquid after standing for 4 minutes. The foam produced with foam generating equipment shall cling to vertical and underside panel surfaces and shall remain on all panels tested for not less than 60 seconds.

3.12 Workmanship. The cleaning compound shall be manufactured from materials entirely suitable for the purpose intended and shall be processed in a manner that will produce a product harmless to metal surfaces and humans when used as directed.

3.13 Colormetric Test for Total Phenol. The cleaning compound shall contain no more than 0.05 percent by weight of total phenols when tested in accordance with para 4.6.22.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

4.1 Responsibility for Inspection. Unless otherwise specified in the contract, the contractor is responsible for the performance of all inspection requirements as specified herein. Except as otherwise specified in the contract, the contractor may use his own or any other 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 when such inspections

MIL-C-83873

are deemed necessary to assure supplies and services conform to prescribed requirement.

4.2 Classification of Tests. The inspection and testing of the cleaning compound shall be as follows: (as defined in MIL-STD-109)

- a. Qualification inspection (4.3).
- b. Quality conformance inspection (4.4).

4.3 Qualification Inspection. Qualification inspection shall consist of all inspections and tests specified herein.

4.3.1 Qualification Samples. The initial qualification samples shall consist of 9.5 liters (2.5 gallons) of the cleaning compound. The cleaning compound shall be furnished in containers of the type specified in para 5.1. Samples shall be identified as follows and forwarded to the activity responsible for testing, as designated in the letter of authorization from the activity responsible for qualification (See 6.3):

- Samples for Qualification Tests.
- Cleaning Compound, Precoating Surface, Aircraft and AGE.
- MIL-C-83873.
- (Manufacturers Product and Code Number.)
- (Name and Address of Contractor.)
- Submitted by (Name), (Date) for Qualification Testing in Accordance with the Requirements of MIL-C-83873 Under Authorization (Reference Authority Letter).
- (Mixing and Other Important Instructions.)
- (Safety Information and Precautions.)

4.3.2 Test Reports. In addition to the qualification test samples, the contractor shall furnish a certified test report showing that the material conforms to all the requirements of this specification with the exception of the storage stability. Additionally, a certified statement shall be furnished to the qualifying activity that specifically identifies each ingredient including solvent, in the cleaning compound by a readily recognizable chemical name, source and percentage by weight contained in the compound. Trade names alone will not be considered satisfactory.

4.3.3 Qualification Required. Prior to actual procurement, the cleaning compound shall pass the qualification inspections and requirements specified herein. If the product is later modified in any way, the modified form shall be subjected to and shall pass the same qualification inspections (see 3.1). Any changes or modifications from the formulation used at the initial qualification shall be approved by the qualifying activity and will require requalification. All qualifications will be granted contingent upon compliance with the long term storage stability requirement specified in

MIL-C-83873

paragraph 3.10 (Government conducted). QAR shall verify that each batch/lot consists of the same formulation as used in the initial qualification.

4.4 Quality Conformance Inspection. Quality conformance inspection of the cleaning compound shall consist of the following tests.

- A. Cold Stability
- B. Immersion Corrosion *
- C. Emulsion Characteristics
- D. Nonvolatile Matter
- E. pH
- F. Flash Point
- G. Insoluble Matter
- H. Hard Water Stability
- I. Infrared Spectrogram

*Immersion Corrosion Quality Conformance Test run on Aluminum QQ-A-250/4, Bare T3 alloy panel only.

If during the quality conformance testing a lot fails any of the above acceptance tests, all tests required for qualification will be reinstated. These qualification tests will be required until two successive lots meet all requirements of the specification, after which quality conformance testing will again be authorized. (See paragraph 4.4.6)

4.4.1 Sampling. Unless otherwise specified, not less than a 3.8 liter (1 gal) container of the cleaning compound shall be selected at random from each batch and subjected to the tests specified in 4.4.

4.4.2 Batch. A batch shall consist of one of the following:

- a. The cleaning compound produced in not more than 24 consecutive hours from a continuous process which is used to fill shipping containers directly from the process output. A continuous process shall be the production of product by continuous input of raw materials and output of finished product by one manufacturer in one plant with no change in manufacturing conditions or materials.
- b. The cleaning compound from individual runs of a batch process which is used to fill shipping containers directly from the process output. A batch process shall be the production of product by runs from single additions of raw materials which are mixed, reacted, and/or purified forming the product.
- c. The cleaning compound from either or both the continuous and batch processes which is held in a single storage tank and subsequently withdrawn to fill shipping containers. The product will be homogeneous at the time of withdrawal and shall not be

MIL-C-83873

added to while being withdrawn. After each addition to the storage tank, the contents shall constitute a separate batch.

4.4.3 Sampling of Product. Unless otherwise specified, quality conformance tests shall be made on the sample of product taken directly from the filled containers. The number of filled containers selected for sampling from each lot shall be in accordance with Table III. The first and last containers to be filled within a given lot shall be sampled. Other containers will be selected at random. The contents of each selected container for sampling shall be thoroughly mixed by rolling and inverting immediately prior to sampling. The samples may be obtained in any convenient manner that does not compromise the integrity of the sample. The sampled containers shall be subjected to the inspections specified in 4.4.5.

TABLE III. Sampling for Tests

Number of Containers in lot	Number of Containers to be sampled
2 to 15	2
16 to 25	3
26 to 90	5
91 to 150	8
151 to 280	13
281 to 500	20
501 to 1200	32
1201 to 3200	50
3201 to 10000	80
10001 to 35000	125
35001 to 150000	200
150001 to 500000	315
500001 and over	500

4.4.4 Inspection of Materials. The contractor is responsible for insuring that materials and components used are manufactured, tested and inspected in accordance with the requirements of referenced subsidiary specifications and standards to the extent specified, or, if none, in accordance with this specification. (See 2.3)

4.4.5 Inspection of the End Item. Examination of the end item shall be made in accordance with the following classification of defects. The lot size, for

MIL-C-83873

purposes of determining the sample size in accordance with Table III, shall be expressed in units of filled primary containers for the examination specified in 4.4.5.1, and 4.4.5.2, and in units of shipping containers for the examinations specified in 4.4.5.3

4.4.5.1 Examination for Container Defects. The end item containers shall be examined for defects in appearance, closure, construction, workmanship, and markings in accordance with Table IV.

TABLE IV. Examination for Container Defects

EXAMINATION	DEFECT
-Appearance, construction, and workmanship	Not in container specified, cracked, crushed, or any defect affecting serviceability. Not clean; evidence of dirt, rust, or foreign matter.
-Closure	Any leakage or seepage of contents in either an upright or horizontal position. Closure not as specified.
-Markings	Omitted, illegible, incorrect, or not in accordance with contract requirements.

4.4.5.2 Examination for Net Contents. The quality of the batch shall be unacceptable if the average net content is less than the specified or indicated quantity.

4.4.5.3 Examination of Preparation for Delivery. An examination shall be made to determine the packing, palletization, and markings comply with Section 5 and Table V.

4.4.6 Rejection and Retest. Rejected material shall not be resubmitted for acceptance without prior approval of the qualifying activity. The application for resubmission shall contain full particulars concerning previous rejections and all measures taken to correct those defects. Samples for retest shall be taken from previously unopened product containers.

4.5 Standard Conditions. Standard conditions are defined by FED-STD-141, Section 9. All laboratory tests shall be conducted at standard conditions unless otherwise specified herein.

MIL-C-83873

TABLE V. Examination of Preparation for Delivery

EXAMINATION	DEFECT
-Packing	Container not as specified. Arrangement or number of unit containers per pallet (as applicable) not in accordance with contract requirements. Loose or inadequate strappings, bulged or distorted containers.
-Palletization	Palletization not in accordance with contract requirements.
-Markings	Data illegible, incorrect, incomplete or not in accordance with contract requirements.

4.6 Test Methods.

4.6.1 Non-Volatile Matter. Weigh 5.00 ± 0.01 g of the sample in a porcelain or glass dish about 6 to 8 cm in diameter and about 2 to 4 cm in depth. Dry to constant weight in an air oven at a temperature of $105 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. Constant weight is attained when successive heating for 1-hour periods shows a loss (or gain) of not more than 0.1%. Non-volatile matter determinations shall be made on a minimum of two samples and the average shall be reported. If the two weights differ by more than 0.5% relative, the procedure shall be repeated. The nonvolatile content of the each sample shall be calculated as follows.

$$\% \text{NVM} = (A/B) \times 100$$

where: A = Weight of Residue (g)

B = Weight of Sample (g)

%NVM = % non-volatile matter

4.6.2 Insoluble Matter. The concentrated cleaning compound shall be thoroughly agitated and a 200 ml test sample withdrawn. The insoluble matter shall be collected with the aid of a vacuum filtering apparatus consisting of a water tap filter pump, a 2,000 ml Erlenmeyer flask, a size 4 (126 mm ID) Buchner funnel and a piece of 126 mm diameter Whatman No 5 filter paper, or equivalent. The filter paper shall be dried at 60°C (140°F) for 30 minutes in a gravity convection oven, cooled for 3 minutes in a desiccator, and weighed

MIL-C-83873

to the nearest 0.1 mg. The filter paper shall be placed in the Buchner funnel so that its circumference coincides with the circumference of the funnel. The vacuum shall be started and the filter paper wetted with approximately 10 ml of distilled water in order to secure it properly in place. The test sample shall be filtered. The sides of the beaker which contained the test sample shall be rinsed with 25 ml of distilled water from a wash bottle, and the rinse transferred to the funnel, insuring that any remaining insoluble matter is completely transferred with the rinse. When all the initial liquid and the rinse have been transferred through the filter, the sides of the funnel shall be washed with 25 ml of distilled water from a wash bottle and the rinse allowed to filter. The vacuum on the flask shall be relieved and the filter paper removed from the funnel. The filter paper shall be dried for 1 hour at 60°C (140°F) in a gravity convection oven, cooled for 3 minutes in a desiccator, and weighed to the nearest 0.1 mg. The percent insolubles shall be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{A - B}{W} \times 100 = I$$

where : A = Final filter paper weight
 B = Initial filter paper weight
 W = Weight of sample
 I = % wt Insoluble matter

Care should be exercised throughout the final drying and weighing cycle to maintain the flat surface of the filter paper in a horizontal position in order that none of the insoluble matter will be lost. Insoluble matter determinations shall be made on a minimum of two samples and the average shall be reported. If the two results differ by more than 0.5% relative, the procedure shall be repeated.

4.6.3 pH Value. The pH value of the concentrated cleaning compound and a 6 percent solution of the cleaning compound in freshly boiled distilled water shall be measured in accordance with ASTM E 70.

4.6.4 Volatility. A petri dish, 90 mm in diameter and 15 mm deep shall be placed on each pan of a two-pan beam balance with a minimum of a ± 0.5 gram precision. Sufficient compound shall be added to cover the entire bottom of one of the dishes. Distilled water shall be carefully poured in the other dish until the dish containing the compound is counterbalanced. The balance with filled dishes on the pans shall be exposed for 60 minutes in a draft free atmosphere having a temperature of 25 ± 3 °C (75 ± 5 °F). At the end of the exposure period, the comparative weight loss will be determined.

4.6.5 Residue Rinsibility. Six (6) smooth aluminum dishes containing no creases or crevices shall be cleaned in a solution of Brite-Boy, (from 3D Inc., or equivalent), rinsed, dried, and weighed. 10 ml of 25 percent by

MIL-C-83873

volume solution of the cleaning compound in standard hard water (See 4.6.10.1) shall be placed in three of the precleaned dishes and tested as follows: Dry for 7 1/2 hours in a circulating oven at 68 ± 2 °C (154 ± 4 °F) with full draft. Cool in desiccator overnight and weigh. Rinse with running distilled water for 1 minute. Brush with sash-type brush containing long-fiber bristles (25 mm diameter by 38 mm to 64 mm long) for 1 minute using distilled water. Rinse for 30 seconds with running distilled water. Dry in oven, cool and reweigh. Check for compliance with 3.5.3. Standard hard water, prepared as described in 4.6.10.1, shall be tested as control for weight change comparison in the remaining three precleaned dishes, using the same procedure as above.

4.6.6 Heat Stability. A 141.75 g sample of the well mixed concentrated cleaning compound shall be placed into each of two clean 254.9 ml (12 oz) clear glass bottles having approximate dimensions of 240 mm in height by 63.5 mm in diameter (9.5 in x 2.5 in). One bottle containing the concentrated cleaning compound shall be sealed with a screw type cap and stored in a dark place at standard conditions (see 4.5) for 6 days (144 hrs) for reference purposes. Place into the second bottle of concentrated cleaning compound a strip of steel, 152.4 mm by 12.7 mm by 0.5 mm (6 in x 0.5 in x 0.02 in) conforming to MIL-S-7952. Clean the steel strip by abrasively polishing to remove surface scale and corrosion followed by immersion for one minute in xylene (ASTM D 846) followed by immersion for one minute in isopropyl alcohol (TT-I-735, grade A) at standard conditions. Seal the bottle containing the concentrated cleaning compound and the cleaned steel strip with a screw type cover and shake thoroughly for 1 minute. Place the bottle in a bath maintained at 43 ± 2 °C (110 ± 3 °F) for 5 hours, then remove and allow to cool to ambient conditions for 19 hours. This heating/cooling cycle will be repeated 5 times. After completion of the test period, remove the test strip and inspect the portion of the strip which was immersed in the cleaning compound and the portion exposed to the vapor. Any corrosion, pitting or discoloration constitutes failure. The bottle is resealed and along with the control bottle, that has been maintained in the dark, is shaken thoroughly for 1 minute, then allowed to remain undisturbed for 1 hour at room temperature. The bottles are then examined. Any marked change in color, precipitation, layering or separation constitutes failure.

4.6.7 Cold Stability. A 50 ml sample of the cleaning compound shall be poured into a suitable test tube and cooled to 0 °C (32 °F). This temperature shall be maintained for one hour. The compound shall be allowed to reach room temperature. After 5 (five) complete temperature inversion cycles of the test tube, the compound shall be examined for homogeneity.

4.6.8 Flash Point. The flash point of the concentrated compound shall be determined in accordance with ASTM D 93.

4.6.9 Emulsion Characteristics. 10 ml of a 6 percent by volume solution of the cleaning compound shall be placed in a 50 ml glass-stoppered, graduated cylinder. 30 ml of dry cleaning solvent conforming to P-D-680 Type II shall

MIL-C-83873

be added. An emulsion shall be formed by 10 inversions of the graduate followed by a vigorous 15 second shake. The 15 seconds of agitation shall be repeated after the emulsion has stood for 5 minutes. The resulting emulsion shall be allowed to stand for 2 hours. At the end of the 2-hour period, the emulsion shall be examined. There shall be no evidence of separation of the P-D-680, water and cleaner.

4.6.10 Hard-water Stability:

4.6.10.1 Preparation of Stock Solution. A 20-grain (as CaCO_3) hard-water stock solution shall be prepared by dissolving 0.40 ± 0.005 gm of reagent grade Calcium Acetate, $\text{Ca}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 0.28 ± 0.005 gm of reagent grade Magnesium Sulfate, $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, in 1 liter of boiled distilled water.

4.6.10.2 Procedure. Using a 5 ml volumetric pipet transfer 5 ml of a 25 percent by volume solution of cleaning compound into each of 3 clean 50 ml volumetric flasks. Add hard-water stock solution to each of 3 flasks to make 50 ml. Each solution shall be well mixed and allowed to stand undisturbed for 24 hours at 25 ± 5 °C (77 ± 9 °F). Each solution shall then be visually examined for precipitation. Agitate each solution by inverting the flask five times. The turbidity shall be measured with a Hellige turbidimeter or equivalent non-photometric instrument and calibrated as ppm silica.

4.6.11 Hydrogen Embrittlement. The hydrogen embrittlement properties of the cleaning compound shall be determined in accordance with ASTM F 519 using Type 1a, Treatment B AISI 4340 steel specimens. The test will be conducted at 25 ± 5 °C (77 ± 9 °F).

4.6.12 Total Immersion Corrosion. The total immersion corrosion effects of the cleaning compound on the new, unused metals and metal alloys listed in 3.7.2 and Table II shall be determined in accordance with ASTM F 483. The specimens will remain immersed for 168 hours. The metal gain/loss will be divided by seven (7) and recorded as $\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2/24$ hours. ASTM F 483 calls for the use of 1,1,1-trichloroethane and chromic acid. Acetone (O-A-51) or Methyl Ethyl Ketone (TT-M-261) may be substituted for the 1,1,1-trichloroethane. Rust Eradicator 2X, manufactured by 3D Inc., or an equivalent, may be substituted for the chromic acid.

4.6.13 Low Embrittling Cadmium Plate Corrosion. The cleaning compound shall be evaluated for corrosion on low-embrittling cadmium plate in accordance with ASTM F 1111.

4.6.14 Effects on Unpainted Metal Surfaces. The cleaning compound shall be evaluated for effects on unpainted metal surfaces to the requirements of ASTM F 485.

4.6.15 Effect on Painted Surfaces. Prepare a six (6) percent solution of cleaning compound with distilled water. Test both the six (6) percent

MIL-C-83873

solution and concentrate in accordance with ASTM F 502 except that the panels used for testing shall be coated with the paint systems listed in Table VI. All paint systems shall be tested and a separate panel shall be required for both six (6) percent solution and concentrate. A total of five (5) paint systems will be tested. Test panels will consist of the following paint systems found in Table VI:

1. Panel Code No. (A) primer with (D) topcoat
2. (A) primer with (E) topcoat
3. (B) primer with (D) topcoat
4. (C) primer with (E) topcoat
5. (F) self priming topcoat

4.6.16 Stress Cracking of Aircraft Transparencies. The cleaning compound shall be evaluated for stress crazing of Stretched Modified Acrylic Sheet, MIL-P-25690, Plastic Sheet Polycarbonate, Transparent, MIL-P-83310, and Sheet Acrylic Plastic, MIL-P-5425 in accordance with ASTM F 484 except that only the 6 percent solution by volume of the cleaning compound in distilled water shall be tested.

4.6.17 Long Term Storage Stability. The cleaning compound shall be prepared and stored for long term storage stability in accordance with ASTM F 503 using two (2) 3.8 liter (one-gallon) cans conforming to high density polyethylene or polypropylene containers. This test will be conducted by the Air Force.

4.6.18 Solvent Content. The organic solvent content shall be determined by analyzing for volatile hydrocarbons in accordance with ASTM D 460.

4.6.19 Sandwich Corrosion. The cleaning compound shall be tested in accordance with ASTM F 1110.

4.6.20 Foaming Properties. One part of the concentrated cleaning compound will be mixed with 15 parts water. 100 ml of this mixture shall be placed in a 500 ml capacity blender with a maximum 95 mm (3.75 inch) outside diameter. The blender shall be turned on and run for 2 minutes at 8000 ± 1000 rpm. A stabilized foam is indicated by negligible agitation at the upper surface. The blender shall be turned off after 2 minutes and allowed to stand undisturbed for 4 minutes. After standing for 4 minutes, less than 80 ml of liquid shall be present at the bottom of the container. If the cleaning compound meets these requirements the test should be continued by spraying as a foam from a B&B Chemical Portafoamer 20 or equivalent, using tap water. The first application shall be made to an aluminum panel, 61 x 61 cm (24 x 24 in), from a hose having an inside diameter of 2.5 cm (1 in) and 15.2 x 22.9 m (50 to 75 ft) long at a dilution ratio set at 1 part compound to 9 parts water. The second application shall be made to a similar panel with a hose having an inside diameter of 1.9 cm (3/4 in) and 7.6 m (25 ft) in length with dilution set at 1 part compound to 9 parts water. The panels shall be held at an angle of 60 degrees to the horizontal.

MIL-C-83873

TABLE VI. Test Panel Finishes

Primer Coatings				
Panel Code No.	Primer Material Spec	Dry Film Thickness Per Coat/ mm(Inches)	No. of Coats	Drying Time Before Topcoating
A	MIL-P-23377 Primer, Coating Epoxy-Polyamide	0.0178-0.0229 (0.0007-0.0009)	1	2 - 8 hours
B	MIL-P-85582 Primer, Coating Waterborne, Epoxy	0.0178-0.0229 (0.0007-0.0009)	1	2 - 8 hours
C	TT-P-2760 Primer, Coating Polyurethane	0.0203-0.0305 (0.0008-0.0012)	1	2 - 8 hours

Top Coats						
Panel Code	Topcoat Material	Dry Film Thickness Per Coat/ mm(Inches)	No of Coats	Drying Time Between Coats	Dry Film Thickness mm(Inches)	Time Before Testing (Days)
D	TT-E-529 Enamel Semigloss	0.0203-0.0305 (0.0008-0.0012)	2	1hr	0.0457-0.061 (0.0018-0.0024)	7
E	MIL-C-83286 Poly- urethane	0.0203-0.0305 (0.0008-0.0012)	2	1hr	0.0457-0.0610 (0.0018-0.0024)	7
F	TT-C-2756 Coating, Self Prim- ing, Low VOC, Poly.	0.0203-0.0305 (0.0008-0.0012)	2	1hr	0.0457-0.0610 (0.0018-0.0024)	7

MIL-C-83873

4.6.21 Wet Adhesion (Tape Test). This method tests the intercoat adhesion of an organic coating system. This procedure is used to determine the cleanliness of the surface prior to coating.

4.6.21.1 Preparing Test Coupons. The test coupons shall consist of eighteen (18) 4 in x 6 in aluminum alloy coupons conforming to QQ-A-250/12. The coupons will be pretreated in accordance with MIL-C-38334 and MIL-C-5541. The coupons will be air dried and primed with MIL-P-23377 primer. Topcoat the coupons from Table VI as follows:

(Set 1). Six coupons with code D, Fed Std 595, color number 24052

(Set 2). Six coupons with code E, Fed Std 595, color number 34092

(Set 3). Six coupons with code E, Fed Std 595, color number 17925.

The coatings should be allowed to cure for a minimum of seven (7) days before being validated for performing the wet tape test.

4.6.21.2 Coupon Validation Procedure. The coupons will be validated using the following wet tape test.

- a. Immerse the test coupons in distilled water for 24 hours.
- b. Remove the test coupons from the water and wipe dry with a clean lint free cloth.
- c. Immediately apply a 25.4 mm wide strip of Masking Tape (3M Co., Code No. 250) with the adhesive side down. Do not apply the tape within 1/2 inch of any edge.
- d. Press the tape against the surface of the coating by passing a 2.0 kg rubber covered roller, having a surface Durometer hardness value of 70 to 80, across the tape eight times.
- e. Remove the tape with one quick motion and examine for damage to the intercoat or surface adhesion.
- f. If there is no damage to the surface, proceed to para 4.6.21.3. If the coating system is damaged in any way, discard the coupon.

4.6.21.3 Test Procedure. This test will test the cleaning compound's effectiveness to remove soil from a painted surface in preparation for repainting (touch up). Immerse the coupons validated in para 4.6.21.2 in hydraulic fluid conforming to MIL-H-83282 for ten (10) minutes. Remove the panels from the fluid and blot excess fluid from the coupons with a paper napkin. Spray the diluted cleaning compound (6% solution) on the coupons, agitate for 20 seconds with a 3M Scotch Bright Pad (MIL-A-9962, Type I, Class

MIL-C-83873

1, Grade B, maroon color) and thoroughly rinse with clean water. After the coupons have air dried, recoat the panels from Table VI as follows:

- a. Prime three (3) coupons from Set 1 with code B, and topcoat with code E, Fed-Std-595 color number 34092.
- b. Prime three (3) coupons from Set 2 with code A, and topcoat with code E, Fed-Std-595 color number 34092.
- c. Prime three (3) coupons from Set 3 with code C, and topcoat with code E, Fed-Std-595 color number 34092.
- d. Recoat the remaining panels, three (3) from each Set with code F (do not use a primer).

After the coatings have air dried for between seven (7) and ten (10) days, perform the Wet Tape Test in paragraph 4.6.21.2, steps (a) through (e). The coating system shall show no signs of damage.

4.6.22 Total Phenol Content. Total phenol content shall be determined by EPA 420.1. Results of this test shall be recorded and provided to SA-ALC/SFTT, Kelly AFB, TX 78241.

4.7 Toxicity and Waste Disposal Characteristics. The supplier shall furnish the toxicological data or formulations required (See 3.3) to evaluate the safety of the material proposed for use. The manufacturer shall provide general procedures for disposal in accordance with Federal EPA regulations. This data will be forwarded to San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Attention SFTT, Kelly AFB, Texas 78241-5000.

4.7.1 Biodegradability Test. Biodegradation will be determined by the "Shake Flask Biodegradation Tests" for measuring ultimate or ready degradation potential, as found in EPA Chemical Fate Test Guidelines 40 CFR Method 796.3100 (Aerobic Aquatic Biodegradation Test) or 40 CFR Method 796.3240 (OECD Screening Test for Ready Biodegradability). Biodegradability will be shown as carbon transformation by soluble organic carbon reduction.

4.8 Filler Materials. The contractor shall furnish certification that the cleaning compound contains only the materials allowed and does not contain any filler materials disallowed per paragraph 3.2.1.

4.9 Infrared Spectrograms Graph. Infrared spectrograms of the nonvolatile matter smeared on a sodium chloride plate shall be recorded using a double beam diffraction gradient spectrophotometer with a minimum resolution of 3 wavenumbers. The graph shall be prepared by a Government approved qualification laboratory (See 3.4). The detailed method of sample preparation of the spectra shall be provided with each graph to the qualifying activity from the approved qualification laboratory.

MIL-C-83873

5. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

5.1 Packaging. Packaging shall be Level A, or Industrial for required net fill.

5.1.1 Level A. The cleaning compound shall be furnished in the following metal or non-metallic containers (as specified by the procuring activity):

a. In 3.8 liter (1 gallon) containers conforming to PPP-P-704, Type I, Class 4, or non-metallic DOT 34-5.

b. In 18.9 liter (5 gallon) containers conforming to PPP-P-704, Type I, Class 4, or non-metallic DOT 34-5.

c. In 208 liter (55 gallon) drums conforming to PPP-D-729, Type I or non-metallic DOT 34-5.

5.1.2 Industrial. The cleaning compound shall be packaged in accordance with ASTM D 3951. Containers shall be in accordance with Uniform Freight Classification rules or regulations of other carriers applicable to the mode of transportation.

5.1.3 Compatibility of Materials. The container, closure, lining, or sealing compound shall not interact physically or chemically with the contents so as to corrode, be altered, or to alter the strength, quality or purity of the contents.

5.2 Packing. Packing shall be Level A, B, C, or Industrial as specified by the procuring activity.

5.2.1 Level A. Cleaning compound packaged as specified in 5.1.1a shall be packed for shipment in cleated plywood containers conforming to PPP-B-601, Type Overseas, Class I, Style A. Full height half-slotted style partitions fabricated from PPP-F-320, weather resistant fiberboard material shall be provided to form an individual snug-fitting cell for each unit container. Closure and weight limitations shall be in accordance with the requirements of the specification.

5.2.2 Level B. Cleaning compound packaged as specified in 5.1.1a shall be packed for shipment in fiberboard containers conforming to PPP-B-636, Type CF, Class Weather Resistant, Variety Optional, Grade Optional, Style RSC. Full height half-slotted style partitions fabricated from PPP-F-320, weather resistant fiberboard material, equal to the strength of the fiberboard used for container construction, shall be provided to form an individual snug-fitting cell for each unit container. Closure and weight limitations shall be in accordance with the requirements of the specification.

5.2.3 Level C. Same as 5.2.2 except that containers shall conform to PPP-B-636, Type CF, Class Domestic, Variety Optional, Grade Optional, Style RSC. Partitions shall be constructed of PPP-F-320, domestic fiberboard

MIL-C-83873

material that is equal to the strength of the fiberboard used for container construction. Closure and weight limitations shall be in accordance with the requirements of the specification.

5.2.4 Industrial. Packing shall be in accordance with commercial practice. Containers shall be in accordance with Uniform Freight Classification rules or regulations of other carriers applicable to the mode of transportation and destination.

5.3 5 and 55 Gallon Containers. Unless otherwise specified, additional containers are not required for cleaning compound packaged in accordance with 5.1.1b and 5.1.1c.

5.4 Palletization. When specified by the procuring activity, the cleaning compound, shall be palletized in accordance with MIL-STD-147, Load Type Ia (for fiberboard containers) and Type III (for 5 gallon containers). The overall height of the load shall not exceed 109.2 cm (43 inches) for overseas shipments.

5.5 Marking. Containers shall be marked in accordance with MIL-STD-129. Nomenclature marking shall be:

MIL-C-83873, CLEANING COMPOUND
PRECOATING SURFACE, AIRCRAFT AND AGE

5.6 Material Safety Data Sheet. Contractor shall comply with the requirements of FED-STD-313.

6. NOTES

6.1 Intended Use. The cleaning compounds covered by this specification are intended to be used for cleaning aircraft and aerospace ground equipment surfaces prior to coating or recoating. The cleaner will be used to remove contaminants from surfaces prior to coating with primers, topcoats, sealants and adhesives.

6.2 Ordering Data. Procurement documents should specify the following:

- a. Title, number and date of this specification.
- b. Type of container, metallic or non metallic.
- c. Size container required.
- d. QPL reference or test number.
- e. Level of packing required.
- f. Palletization, when applicable.

6.3 Qualification. With respect to products requiring qualification, awards will be made only for products which are at the time set for opening of bids, qualified for inclusion in the applicable Qualified Products List whether or

MIL-C-83873

not such products have actually been so listed by that date. The attention of the contractors is called to this requirement, and contractors are urged to arrange to have their products that they propose to offer to the Federal Government tested for qualification in order that they may be eligible to be awarded contracts or orders for the products covered by this specification. The activity responsible for the Qualified Products List is San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Attention SFTT, Kelly AFB Texas 78241-5000; and information pertaining to qualification of products may be obtained from that activity (See 4.3.1).

CUSTODIANS:

Air Force - 68
Army - GL
Navy - AS

PREPARING ACTIVITY:

Air Force - 68

REVIEW ACTIVITIES:

Air Force - 11
DLA - GS

PROJECT NO. 6850-1079

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.
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.

I RECOMMEND A CHANGE:

1. DOCUMENT NUMBER

MIL-C-83873

2. DOCUMENT DATE (YYMMDD)

910331

3. DOCUMENT TITLE

Cleaning Compound, Precoating surface, Aircraft and Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE)

4. NATURE OF CHANGE (Identify paragraph number and include proposed rewrite, if possible. Attach extra sheets as needed.)

5. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

6. SUBMITTER

a. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

b. ORGANIZATION

c. ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)

d. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)

7. DATE SUBMITTED (YYMMDD)

(1) Commercial

(2) AUTOVON
(if applicable)

8. PREPARING ACTIVITY

a. NAME

SA-ALC/SFRT

b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)

(1) Commercial

(512) 925-7847

(2) AUTOVON

945-7847

c. ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)

SA-ALC/SFRT

Kelly AFB TX 78241-5000

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A REPLY WITHIN 45 DAYS, CONTACT:

Defense Quality and Standardization Office

5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1403, Falls Church, VA 22041-3466

Telephone (703) 756-2340 AUTOVON 289-2340

