

INCH-POUND

MIL-DTL-21981B  
w/AMENDMENT 1  
1 December 2010  
SUPERSEDING  
MIL-E-21981B(EC)  
15 August 1986

## DETAIL SPECIFICATION

### ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT, NOMENCLATURE, SERIAL NUMBERS AND IDENTIFICATION PLATES: REQUIREMENTS FOR

Reinstated after 20 November 2009 and may be used for new  
and existing designs and acquisitions.

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

#### 1. SCOPE

1.1 Scope. This specification covers the requirements and procedures for requesting and processing nomenclature actions, assignment of serial numbers, and approval of identification plate drawings for electronic equipment and accessories.

#### 2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

2.1 General. The documents listed in this section are specified in sections 3, 4, or 5 of this specification. This section does not include documents cited in other sections of this specification or recommended for additional information or as examples. While every effort has been made to ensure the completeness of this list, document users are cautioned that they must meet all specified requirements of documents cited in sections 3, 4, or 5 of this specification, whether or not they are listed.

##### 2.2 Government documents.

2.2.1 Specifications, standards, and handbooks. The following specifications, standards, and handbooks form a part of this document to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise specified, the issues of these documents are those cited in the solicitation or contract.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPECIFICATIONS

MIL-P-15024/5 - Plates, Identification

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STANDARDS

MIL-STD-196 - Joint Electronics Type Designation System

(Copies of these documents are available online at <https://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/> or from the Standardization Document Order Desk, 700 Robbins Avenue, Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.)

Comments, suggestions, or questions on this document should be addressed to: DLA Land and Maritime, Attn.: VAI, P.O. Box 3990, Columbus, Ohio, 43218-3990 or emailed to [sound@dsc.dla.mil](mailto:sound@dsc.dla.mil). Since contact information can change, you may want to verify the currency of this address information using the ASSIST Online database at <https://assist.daps.dla.mil>.

MIL-DTL-21981B  
w/AMENDMENT 1

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HANDBOOKS

## H6 - Federal Item Name Directory for Supply Cataloging

(A number of DLIS products are available through annual subscriptions or one-time purchase. You can order products by selecting the appropriate option below. Information on other DLIS products and services can be obtained through the Product or Service Program Manager or [DLIS Customer Service](#) or the [Freedom of Information Office](#).)

2.3 Order of precedence. Unless otherwise noted herein or the contract, in the event of a conflict between the text of this document and the references cited herein, the text of this specification takes precedence. Nothing in this specification, however, supersedes applicable laws and regulations, unless a specific exemption has been obtained.

## 3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Nomenclature.

3.1.1 Submission of nomenclature requests. All requests for assignment, reinstatement, revision and cancellation of military nomenclature shall be submitted on DD Form 61. A separate DD Form 61 is required for each System, Subsystem, Center, Control, Set, Group, or Unit as defined by MIL-STD-196 or see 6.4 for further guidance on definitions of item levels, item exchangeability, models, and related terms.

3.1.1.1 Preparation of DD Form 61. The DD Form 61 shall be completed fully on all requests submitted for the assignment, reinstatement, or revision of nomenclature. The form shall be completed in accordance with MIL-STD-196.

3.1.2 Submission of request for modification letter (see 6.3).

3.1.2.1 A separate request is submitted for the assignment of a modification letter (alphabetical suffix letter) for items already assigned a basic type designation.

3.1.2.2 The description of items requiring modification letters is to be as complete as for new items requiring basic type designation.

3.1.2.3 In order for a modification letter to be assigned, the modified item must be at least one way interchangeable, electrically, mechanically and functionally with the basic type designation. If the modified item is only similar to the basic, a new nomenclature is assigned.

3.1.2.4 The modified item is electrically interchangeable with the basic if it is capable of operation without any modification to the existing power facilities, change to, or rewiring of connectors, etc.

3.1.2.5 The modified item is mechanically interchangeable with the basic if it is capable of being physically installed and operated without any modifications to mounting holes, cabling, isolators, etc.

3.1.2.6 The modified item is functionally interchangeable with the basic if it is capable of performing, without additional assistance, all the functional capabilities covered by the basic item.

3.1.3 Submission of request for revision. When the description of an item previously submitted is no longer correct, a revised request containing a full description that accurately reflects the current and only configuration of the item shall be submitted. The DD Form 61 shall be completed in the same manner as for an assignment, with specific changes summarized in the "Other Pertinent Information" Block (see 6.3).

3.1.4 Submission of request for nomenclature confirmation. All nomenclatured items to be procured under each follow-on production contract or other procurement action must have nomenclature confirmed, including items that are listed in the complement data of the equipment being confirmed. In cases involving reprocurement, if the equipment is electrically, mechanically and functionally interchangeable, including maintenance parts, with equipments previously supplied for Government, a letter to this effect, listing the last contract number, serial numbers assigned, type designation and part or drawing numbers of all nomenclatured items being procured, shall be submitted in lieu of DD Form 61 (see 6.3).

3.1.5 Submission of cancellation requests. Cancellation of nomenclature requests shall be submitted on DD form 61 in accordance with the "Example of Cancellation" figure in MIL-STD-196 (see 6.3).

MIL-DTL-21981B  
w/AMENDMENT 1

- 3.1.6 Security classification of nomenclature requests. All requests for nomenclature shall include:
- The hardware security classification in the "Security Classification of Item" block and
  - The information (data) in the "Technical Data" block. If any information is classified, each data element on the request is marked with the appropriate security classification symbol immediately preceding and to the left of the data element involved.

Changes in security classification shall be submitted in accordance with the "Example of a modification letter assignment" figure of MIL-STD-196 (see 6.3).

3.2 Serial number assignments. Serial numbers are required for each item (System, Subsystem, Center, Central, Set, Group, or Unit) of nomenclatured equipment, to which an identification plate is to be applied. Serial numbers are assigned for each production contract, and if applicable, each delivery-order under a specific contract. Serial numbers are not assigned to experimental or developmental equipment. Serial numbers will be assigned sequentially by a block of numerals, or alpha numerals, for each production contract. When assignment of serial numbers is requested, the quantity of each item which is to be produced under a given contract, including options under such contract, shall be submitted (see 6.3).

3.3 Submission of requests for approval of identification plate drawing format. If an identification plate is required, a drawing which shows the identification plate format shall be submitted for approval. The identification plate drawing format shall be approved for each production contract (see 6.3).

3.3.1 Identification plate format. The identification plate format to be used for nomenclatured equipment is set forth in MIL-P-15024/5 as follows:

<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>Figure title</u>
System, Subsystem Center, Central, or Set	"Set"
Unit	"Unit"
Group	"Group"
Modification Plate (Field Change)	"Modification Plate"

3.4 Submission of requests for assignment of Material Numbers (MN), previously called NSNs. Each item to be stocked under centralized inventory control will be assigned a MN. Submission of the request for MN shall occur after the assignment of nomenclature (see 6.3).

#### 4. VERIFICATION

This section is not applicable to this specification.

#### 5. PACKAGING

This section is not applicable to this specification.

#### 6. NOTES

(This section contains information of a general or explanatory nature that may be helpful, but is not mandatory.)

6.1 Intended use. This specification is designed to augment and clarify instructions contained in applicable documents (see 2.1) section of specifications, and provide additional standardization within the Department of Defense.

6.2 The Cataloging Handbook H6 (Federal Item Name Directory for Supply Cataloging) is published in two sections: Section A (Alphabetic Index of Names) and Section B, Subsection 1 (Numeric Guides) and Subsection 2 (Alphanumeric Index of Federal Item Identification Guides to Item Name Codes). The publication contains all names, definitions, Item Name Codes, Federal Item Identification Guide numbers, and abbreviations and symbols, approved by the Directorate of Item Identification.

MIL-DTL-21981B  
w/AMENDMENT 1

6.3 Data requirements. When this specification is used in an acquisition, which incorporates a DD Form 1423 Contract Data Requirements List (CDRL), the data requirements identified below should be developed as specified by an approved Data Item Description (DD Form 1664) and delivered in accordance with the approved CDRL incorporated into the contract. When the provisions of DOD FAR Supplement, Part 27, Sub-Part 27.410-6 are invoked and the DD 1423 is not used, the data specified below should be delivered by the contractor in accordance with the contract or purchase order requirements. Deliverable data required by this specification is cited in the following paragraphs.

<u>Paragraph No.</u>	<u>Data Requirement</u>	<u>Applicable to DID No.</u>
<a href="#">3.1.1</a> , <a href="#">3.1.2</a> , <a href="#">3.1.3</a> , <a href="#">3.1.5</a> , and <a href="#">3.1.6</a>	Request for Nomenclature (DD 61)	DI-E-7194
<a href="#">3.1.4</a>	Request for Conformation of Nomenclature	DI-CMAN-80194
<a href="#">3.2</a>	Request for Serial Number Assignment	DI-CMAN-80195
<a href="#">3.3</a>	Request for Approval of Identification Plate Drawings	DI-CMAN-80196
<a href="#">3.4</a>	Request for Material Number (MN)	DI-CMAN-80197

(Data item description related to this specification, and identified in Section 6 will be approved and listed as such in DoD 5010.12-L, AMSDL. Copies of data item descriptions required by the contractors in connection with specific acquisition functions should be obtained from the Naval Publications and Forms Center or as directed by the contracting officer.)

6.4 Item levels, item exchangeability, models, and related terms (see [3.1.1](#)). Refer to MIL-HDBK-505, for further guidance on definitions of item levels, item exchangeability, models, and related terms. Copies of this document are available online at <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/> or from the Document Automation and Production Service (DAPS) Standardization Document Order Desk, 700 Robbins Avenue, Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.

6.5 Subject term (key word) listing.

Drawing  
Group  
Items being procured  
Modification  
Part  
Set  
Type designation  
Unit

6.6 Amendment notations. The margins of this specification are marked with vertical lines to indicate modifications generated by this amendment. 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 irrespective of the marginal notations.

MIL-DTL-21981B  
w/AMENDMENT 1

CONCLUDING MATERIAL

Custodians:  
Navy – EC  
DLA – CC

Review activities:  
Navy – MC, SH

Preparing activity:  
Navy – EC

(Project 9905-2010-002)

Agent:  
DLA – CC

NOTE: The activities listed above were interested in this document as of the date of this document. Since organizations and responsibilities can change, you should verify the currency of the information above using the ASSIST Online database at <https://assist.daps.dla.mil>.