

INCH-POUND

MIL-DTL-3970D  
 25 November 1998  
 SUPERSEDING  
 MIL-W-3970C  
 1 April 1983

## DETAIL SPECIFICATION

WAVEGUIDE ASSEMBLIES, RIGID,  
 GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR

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 general requirements for rigid waveguide assemblies, hereinafter referred to as "assemblies" (see 6.1).

## 2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

2.1 General. The documents listed in this section are specified in sections 3 and 4 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 documents cited in sections 3 and 4 of this specification, whether or not they are listed.

2.2 Government documents.

2.2.1 Specifications and standards. The following specifications and standards form a part of this document to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise specified, the issues of these documents are those listed in the issue of the Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS) and supplement thereto, cited in the solicitation (see 6.2).

## SPECIFICATIONS

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| MIL-W-85    | - | Waveguides, Rigid, Rectangular, General Specification for.      |
| MIL-F-3922  | - | Flanges, Waveguide, General Purpose, General Specification for. |
| MIL-F-14072 | - | Finishes for Ground Based Electronic Equipment.                 |

## STANDARD

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| MIL-STD-202 | - | Test Methods For Electronic and Electrical Component Parts. |
|-------------|---|---|

(Unless otherwise indicated, copies of the above specifications and standards are available from the Standardization Document Order Desk, 700 Robbins Avenue, Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.)

2.3 Non-Government publications. The following documents form a part of this document to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise specified, the issues of the documents which are DoD adopted are those listed in the issue of the DoDISS cited in the solicitation. Unless otherwise specified, the issues of documents not listed in the DoDISS are the issues of the documents cited in the solicitation (see 6.2).

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME)

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Y14.5M - 94 | - | Dimensioning and Tolerancing (DOD adopted). |
|-------------|---|---|

(Applications for copies should be addressed to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 345 East 47<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017-2392.)

Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and pertinent data for improving this document should be addressed to: Commander, Defense Supply Center Columbus, ATTN: DSCC-VAT, 3990 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43216-5000, using the addressed Standardization Document Improvement Proposal (DD Form 1426) at the end of this document or by letter.

AMSC N/A

FSC 5985

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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STANDARDS LABORATORIES (NCSL)

NCSL Z540-1

- Calibration Laboratories and Measuring and Test Equipment, General Requirements.

(Application for copies of NCSL publications should be addressed to National Conference of Standards Laboratories, 1800 30th Street, Suite 305B, Boulder CO 80301.)

(Non-Government standards and other publications are normally available from the organizations which prepare or distribute these documents. These documents also may be available in or through libraries or other informational services.)

2.4 Order of precedence. In the event of a conflict between the text of this document and the references cited herein, the text of this document takes precedence. Nothing in this document, however, supersedes applicable laws and regulations unless a specific exemption has been obtained.

## 3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Specification sheets. The individual item requirements shall be as specified herein and in accordance with the applicable specification sheets. In the event of any conflict between the requirements of this specification and the requirements of the specification sheets, the latter shall govern.

3.2 First article. Assemblies furnished under this specification shall be products that have been tested and passed first article inspection (see 4.5 and 6.3).

3.3 Materials. Materials shall be as specified herein (see 3.1); however, when a definite material is not specified, a material shall be used which will enable the assemblies to meet the performance requirements of this specification. Acceptance or approval of any constituent material shall not be construed as a guaranty of the acceptance of the finished product (see 4.7.1).

3.3.1 Aluminum and aluminum alloy surfaces. Except for interior and mating surfaces, all aluminum or aluminum alloy surfaces must be finished in accordance with MIL-F-14072, type I, finish P513B.

3.3.2 Copper or copper alloy surfaces. Except for interior and mating surfaces, all copper or copper alloy surfaces must be finished in accordance with MIL-F-14072, type I, finish P213B.

3.3.3 Dissimilar metals. Unless suitably protected against electrolytic corrosion, dissimilar metals shall not be used in intimate contact with each other (see 6.4.1).

3.4 Interface and physical dimensions. Assemblies shall be of the design, interface, and physical dimensions specified (see 3.1 and 4.7.1). Dimensions and tolerances shall be interpreted in accordance with ASME Y14.5M - 94.

3.4.1 Flanges. Flanges used as a part of the assembly (see 3.1) shall conform to the requirements of MIL-F-3922.

3.4.2 Waveguides. Waveguides used as a part of the assembly (see 3.1) shall conform to the requirements of MIL-W-85.

3.5 Voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR). When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.2, the VSWR shall not exceed the value specified (see 3.1).

3.6 Insertion loss. When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.3, the insertion loss shall not exceed the value specified (see 3.1).

3.7 Pressurization. When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.4, there shall be no leakage. Following the test, VSWR shall be as specified in 3.5.

3.8 Salt spray (corrosion). When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.5, there shall be no evidence of destructive corrosion. Following this test, VSWR and insertion loss shall be as specified in 3.5 and 3.6, respectively. Destructive corrosion shall be construed as any type of corrosion that interferes with mechanical or electrical performance.

3.9 Vibration, high frequency. When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.6, there shall be no physical damage to the assembly. Following this test, VSWR, insertion loss, and pressurization shall be as specified in 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7, respectively.

3.10 Shock (specified pulse). When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.7, there shall be no physical damage to the assembly. Following this test, VSWR, insertion loss, and pressurization shall be as specified in 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7, respectively.

3.11 Power handling capability (when specified, see 3.1). When assemblies are tested as specified in 4.7.8, there shall be no evidence of arcing, flashover, charring, breakdown, or overheating. After this test, VSWR and insertion loss shall be as specified in 3.5 and 3.6, respectively.

3.12 Workmanship. Assemblies shall be manufactured in such a manner as to be uniform in quality and the assembly shall be free from tool marks, burrs, deep scratches, pits, corrosion, cracks, rough edges, chips, and other defects that will affect life, serviceability, or appearance.

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3.13 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.

#### 4. VERIFICATION

4.1 Test equipment and inspection facilities. Requirements for test equipment and inspection facilities shall be as explained in 6.3.2.

4.2 Classification of inspections. The inspection requirements specified herein are classified as follows:

- a. Materials inspection (see 4.3).
- b. First article inspection (see 4.5).
- c. Conformance inspection (see 4.6).

4.3 Materials inspection. Materials inspection shall consist of certification that the materials (see 3.3 through 3.3.3) used in fabricating the assembly are in accordance with the applicable referenced specifications or requirements prior to such fabrication.

4.4 Inspection conditions. Unless otherwise specified herein, all inspections shall be performed in accordance with the test conditions specified in the "GENERAL REQUIREMENTS" of MIL-STD-202.

4.4.1 Equivalent test methods. The use of equivalent test methods is allowed provided it is demonstrated to the preparing activity or their agent that the equivalent test methods in no way relax the requirements of this specification and that the equivalent test methods are approved by the preparing activity for use by that manufacturer before testing is performed (see 6.3.1).

4.5 First article inspection. First article inspection shall be performed by the manufacturer after award of contract and prior to production at a location acceptable to the Government on sample units produced with equipment and procedures normally used in production. This inspection consists of meeting all requirements of 4.5.1 through 4.5.4 inclusive and of table I. First article approval is valid only on the contract or purchase order under which it is granted.

TABLE I. First article approval inspection.

Inspection	Requirement paragraph	Method paragraph
Visual and mechanical inspection - - - - -	3.1, 3.3 through 3.4, 3.12, and 6.6	4.7.1
VSWR - - - - -	3.5	4.7.2
Insertion loss- - - - -	3.6	4.7.3
Pressurization- - - - -	3.7	4.7.4
Salt spray (corrosion)- - - - -	3.8	4.7.5
Vibration, high frequency - - - - -	3.9	4.7.6
Shock (specified pulse) - - - - -	3.10	4.7.7
Power handling capability (when specified) - - - -	3.11	4.7.8

4.5.1 Sample size. One each of the first article approval Part of Identifying Numbers (PIN) for which first article approval is sought, shall be subjected to first article inspection.

4.5.2 Inspection routine. Sample units shall be subjected to the first article approval inspections specified in table I, in the order shown.

4.5.3 Failures. One or more failures shall be cause for refusal to grant first article approval.

4.5.4 Disposition of first article sample units. Sample units which have been subjected to first article approval testing shall not be delivered on any contract or purchase order. The Government reserves the right to retain the same units or to require the manufacturer to furnish the sample units with the first article inspection report.

4.6 Conformance inspection.

4.6.1 Inspection of product for delivery. Inspection of product for delivery shall consist of group A and B inspections.

4.6.1.1. Inspection lot. An inspection lot shall consist of all assemblies of the same military PIN produced under essentially the same condition, and offered for inspection at one time.

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4.6.1.2 Group A inspection. Group A inspection shall consist of the inspections specified in table II in the order shown.

TABLE II. Group A inspection.

Inspection	Requirement paragraph	Method paragraph
Visual and mechanical inspection - - - - -	3.1, 3.3 through 3.4, 3.12, and 6.6	4.7.1
VSWR - - - - -	3.5	4.7.2

4.6.1.2.1 Sampling plan. All units shall be subjected to group A inspection. No failures are allowed. If one or more sample units fail, the sample shall be considered to have failed.

4.6.1.2.2 Rejected lots (group A inspection). If an inspection lot is rejected, the contractor may rework it to correct the defects or screen out the defective units, and resubmit for reinspection. Such lots shall be separate from new lots and shall be clearly identified as reinspected lots.

4.6.1.3 Group B inspection. Group B inspection shall consist of the tests specified in table III in the order shown, and shall be made on units which have been subjected to and have passed group A inspection.

TABLE III. Group B inspection.

Inspection	Requirement paragraph	Method paragraph
Insertion loss - - - - -	3.6	4.7.3
Pressurization - - - - -	3.7	4.7.4

4.6.1.3.1 Sampling plan (group B inspection). The sampling plan shall be as specified in table IV.

TABLE IV. Group B sampling plan.

Quantity	Units tested
1 - 5	0 <sup>1/</sup>
6 - 50	1
51 - 99	2
100 and greater	2%

<sup>1/</sup> After three consecutive buys of five units or less over a period of 18 months, at least one unit shall be subjected to group B inspection on the fourth buy.

4.6.1.3.2 Rejected lots (group B inspection). If an inspection lot is rejected, the contractor may rework it to correct the defects, or screen out the defective units, and resubmit for reinspection. Such lots shall be separate from new lots, and shall be clearly identified as reinspected lots.

4.6.1.3.3 Disposition of sample units. Sample units which have been subjected to group B inspection shall not be delivered on the contract or purchase order.

#### 4.7 Methods of inspection.

4.7.1 Visual and mechanical inspection. Assemblies shall be inspected to verify that the materials, design, interface, physical dimensions, finish, marking, and workmanship are in accordance with the applicable requirements (see 3.1, 3.3 through 3.4, 3.12, and 6.6).

4.7.2 VSWR (see 3.5). The VSWR of the assembly shall be measured over the specified frequency range (see 3.1), using the test set-up of figure 1 or figure 2. The test equipment shall be capable of providing a continuous measurement of VSWR over the required frequency ranges. A means shall be provided for producing a permanent records of the assembly's VSWR versus frequency. If VSWR is not directly measured; that is, if return loss is measured and VSWR is calculated from that measurement, the permanent record shall indicate the worst case VSWR numerically for each frequency band and shall provide the calculation used to obtain the calculated VSWR. The measurement system and permanent record shall provide a minimum accuracy of 0.04 dB over the frequency ranges below 26.5 GHz and a minimum accuracy of 0.08 dB over the frequency ranges 26.5 GHz and above.

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4.7.3 Insertion loss (see 3.6). The insertion loss of the assembly shall be measured over the specified frequency range (see 3.1), using the test set-up of figure 3. The test requirement shall be capable of providing a continuous measurement of insertion loss over the required frequency ranges. A means shall be provided for producing a permanent record of the assembly's insertion loss versus frequency. The measurement system and permanent record shall provide a minimum accuracy of 0.08 dB over the frequency ranges 0.32 through 2.6 GHz and above 26.5 GHz and 0.04 dB over the frequency ranges 2.6 through 26.5 GHz.

4.7.4 Pressurization (see 3.7). The assembly shall be subjected to the internal air pressure in pound-force (lbf) specified (see 3.1), while immersed in water. The temperature of the water shall be  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Any bubbles coming from within the assembly shall be considered as leakage. Bubbles which are the result of entrapped air on the exterior parts of the assembly shall not be considered as leaks. After the test VSWR shall be measured as specified in 4.7.2.

4.7.5 Salt spray (corrosion) (see 3.8). Assemblies shall be tested in accordance with MIL-STD-202, method 101. The waveguide ends should be capped prior to this test. The following details shall apply:

- a. Special mounting: Not applicable.
- b. Test condition letter: B.
- c. Measurement after exposure: VSWR and insertion loss shall be measured as specified in 4.7.2 and 4.7.3, respectively. The assembly shall be visually inspected for evidence of destructive corrosion.

4.7.6 Vibration, high frequency (see 3.9). Assemblies shall be tested in accordance with MIL-STD-202, method 204. The following details shall apply:

- a. Mounting: Rigidly mounted to an appropriate nonresonant mounting table.
- b. Electrical load: Not applicable.
- c. Test condition letter: A.
- d. Resonance: Not applicable.
- e. Measurements after vibration. VSWR insertion loss, and pressurization shall be measured in 4.7.2, 4.7.3, and 4.7.4, respectively.

4.7.7 Shock (specified pulse) (see 3.10). Assemblies shall be tested in accordance with MIL-STD-202, method 213. The following details shall apply:

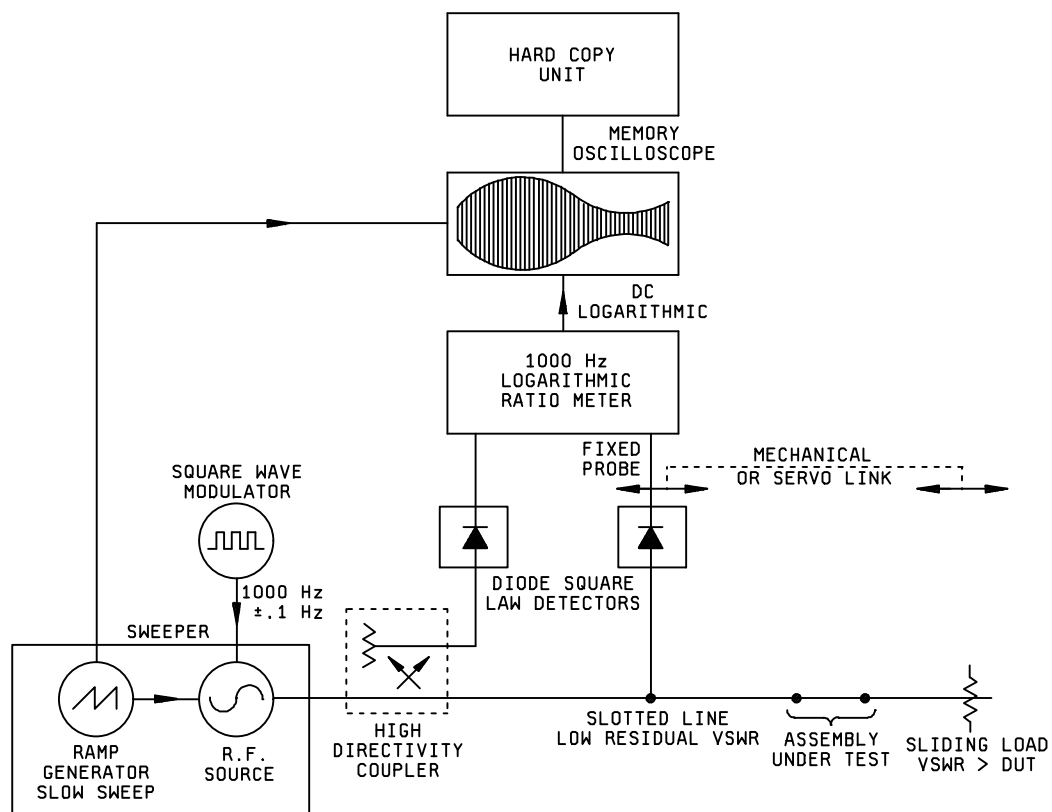
- a. Mounting: Rigidly mounted to test platform.
- b. Test condition letter: G.
- c. Measurements after shock: VSWR, insertion loss, and pressurization shall be measured as specified in 4.7.2, 4.7.3, and 4.7.4, respectively.

4.7.8 Power handling capability (when specified, see 3.1) (see 3.11). Assemblies shall be subjected to the radio frequency (RF) power level specified (see 3.1) at the frequency, simulated altitude, and temperature specified (see 3.1). Power shall be maintained for 1 hour after the temperature of the assembly has reached equilibrium (equilibrium has been attained when the assembly temperature does not change more than  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$  within a 15-minute period). During the test the assembly shall be terminated in a matched load (1.1 VSWR maximum). After the test VSWR and insertion loss shall be measured as specified in 4.7.2 and 4.7.3, respectively.

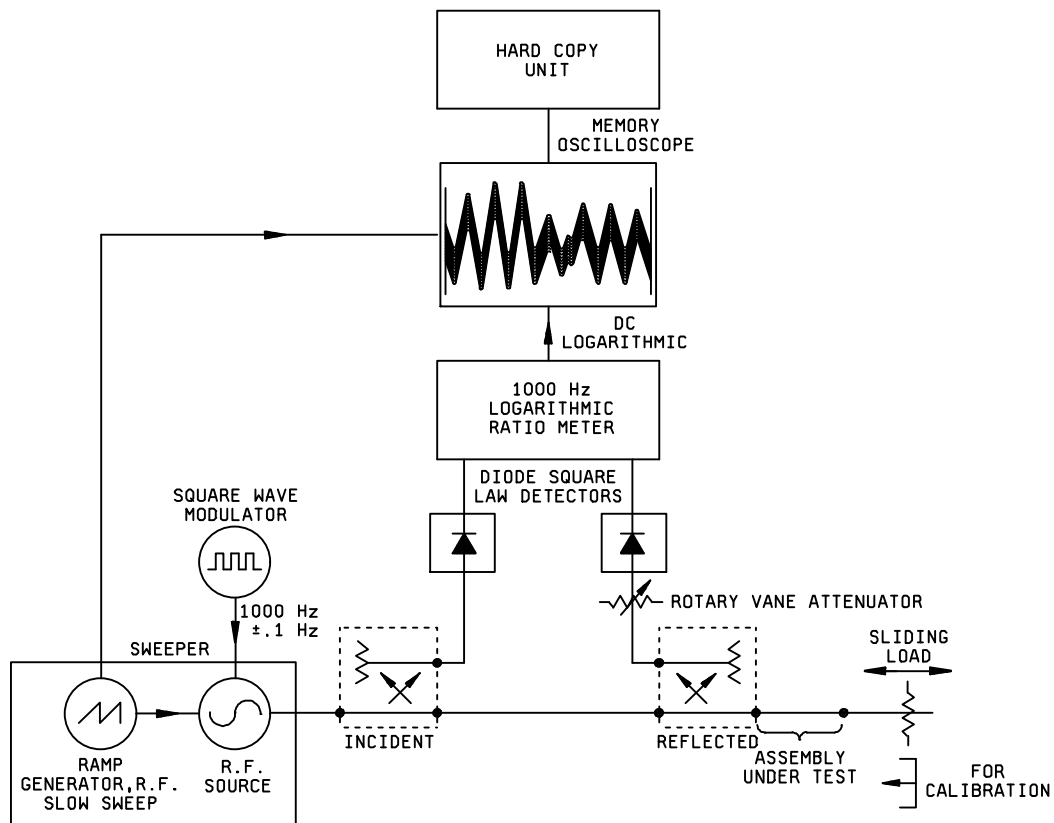
## 5. PACKAGING

5.1 Packaging. For acquisition purposes, the packaging requirements shall be as specified in the contract or purchase order (see 6.2). When actual packaging of materiel is to be performed by DoD personnel, these personnel need to contact the responsible packaging activity to ascertain requisite packaging requirements. Packaging requirements are maintained by the Inventory Control Point's packaging activity within the Military Department or Defense Agency, or within the Military Department's System Command. Packaging data retrieval is available from the managing Military Department's or Defense Agency's automated packaging files, CD-ROM products, or by contacting the responsible packaging activity.

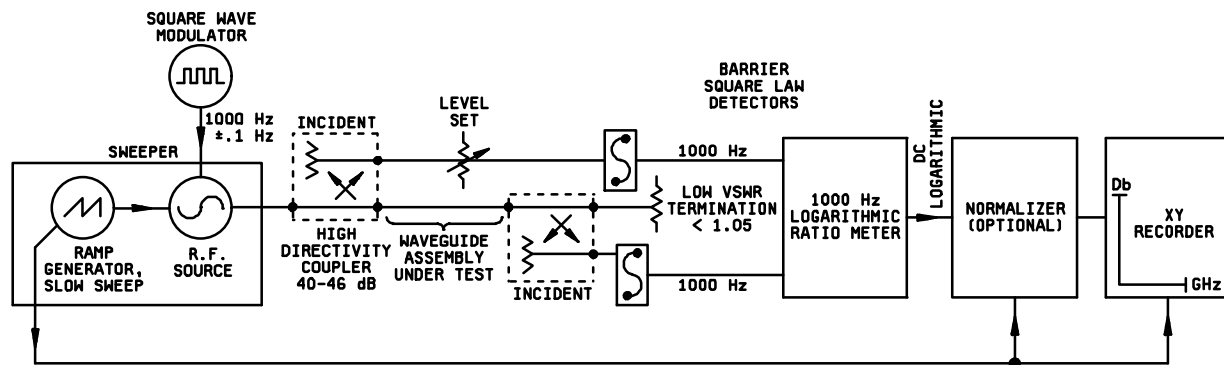
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FIGURE 1. VSWR test using coupled sliding load.

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FIGURE 2. VSWR test using reflectometer with sliding load.

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FIGURE 3. Insertion loss test setup.

## 6. NOTES

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

6.1 Intended use. Rigid waveguide assemblies are intended for use as bends, corners, and twists in rigid waveguide transmission lines to facilitate permanent direction or field orientation changes in the transmission line. The waveguide assemblies herein specified are military unique because they must function within and withstand for prolonged periods worldwide military unique environments. Commercial electronic components are not designed to withstand such extreme environmental conditions. Military uniqueness is also due to the costs required to change fielded systems to accommodate other than these standard military components.

6.2 Ordering data. Acquisition documents should specify the following:

- a. Title, number, and date of this specification.
- b. Title, number, and date of applicable specification sheet and the complete PIN.
- c. Levels of preservation-packaging and packing required (see 5.1).
- d. If special or other identification marking is required.

6.3 First article inspection. Information pertaining to first article inspection of products covered by this specification should be obtained from the acquiring activity for the specific contracts involved (see 3.2).

6.3.1 Alternate (equivalent) test methods. The use of equivalent test methods is allowed (see 4.4.1). Results for alternate test methods must be submitted to the qualifying activity and to the preparing activity for prior approval. The manufacturer must have conducted both test methods and have submitted complete test data to the preparing activity verifying the equivalency of each alternate test method proposed. For proposed alternate test methods, test method comparative error analysis must be made available for examination by the preparing activity and by the qualifying activity.

6.3.2 Test equipment and inspection facilities. Test and measuring equipment and inspection facilities of sufficient accuracy and quantity to permit performance of the required inspections must be the responsibility of the manufacturer. Establishment and maintenance of a calibration system to control the accuracy of the measuring and test equipment must be in accordance with NCSL Z540-1 (see 4.1).



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6.4 Definitions. For the purpose of this specification, the following definition applies.

6.4.1 Dissimilar metals. Dissimilar metals are defined in MIL-STD-889.

6.5 Changes from previous issue. Asterisks are not used in this revision to identify changes with respect to the previous issue due to the extensiveness of the changes.

6.6 Marking. Assemblies must be marked in accordance with MIL-STD-1285, method I, on the external surface, with the military PIN (see 3.1), and the manufacturer's source code. Marking characters must be approximately 0.125 inch (3.18 mm) in height for assemblies covering frequencies up to 26.5 GHz and approximately 0.063 inch (1.60 mm) in height for assemblies covering frequencies above 26.5 GHz. The manufacturer's name or trademark may also be marked on the assembly provided such letters are not expressly forbidden in the contract or purchase order. The preferred and permissible marking is as follows:

Preferred:	Military PIN:	M3970/1-XX-XXXX
	Manufacturer source code:	ZZZZZ
Permissible	M3970/ 1-XX-XXXX ZZZZZ	

6.7 Subject term (key word) listing.

Bends	Pressurization
Corners	Radio frequency
Dissimilar metals	Transmission lines
Flanges	Twists
Insertion loss	Voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR)

## CONCLUDING MATERIAL

Custodians:  
Army - CR  
Navy - EC  
Air Force - 85

Preparing activity:  
DLA - CC  
(Project 5985-1115)

Review activities:  
Army - AR, MI  
Navy - AS, CG, MC, OS, SH  
Air Force - 11, 17, 99

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I RECOMMEND A CHANGE:	1. DOCUMENT NUMBER MIL-DTL-3970D	2. DOCUMENT DATE (YYMMDD) 25 November 1998
3. DOCUMENT TITLE WAVEGUIDE ASSEMBLIES, RIGID, GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR		
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) (1) Commercial (2) AUTOVON (If applicable)	7. DATE SUBMITTED (YYMMDD)
8. PREPARING ACTIVITY		
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