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12 November 1969  
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MILITARY STANDARD  
STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS,  
ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR THE  
SELECTION OF

FSC MISC

**MIL-STD-143B**  
12 November 1969

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Washington, D. C. 20301

Standards and Specifications,  
Order of Precedence for the Selection of

**MIL-STD-143B**

1. This Military standard is mandatory for use by all Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense.
2. Recommended corrections, additions, or deletions should be addressed to:

Commander,  
Aeronautical Systems Division (ASNPS-10)  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

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## MILITARY STANDARD

### STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS, ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR THE SELECTION OF

#### 1. SCOPE

1.1 Purpose. This standard sets forth the order of precedence for the selection of standards and specifications to identify and describe items, materials, and processes used by design activities in the design and construction of military materiel for the Department of Defense. Requirements for approval of standards and specifications by the Government command or agency concerned prior to use are excluded from the coverage of this standard. Requirements for approval or release, if any, or the use of documents stating applicability of standards and specifications for special applications are subject to contract provisions.

1.2 Application. This standard is intended for application in those specifications or other procurement documents when it is necessary to control the design selection of items, materials, and processes not definitely specified. This standard is not applicable to construction or architect-engineer service, unless otherwise specified in the contract or order.

#### 2. REFERENCED DOCUMENT

2.1 Index. The issue of the following document and supplement thereto in effect on the date of invitation for bids form a part of this standard to the extent specified herein:

Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards

(Application for copies by activities outside of the Department of Defense should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.)

#### 3. DEFINITIONS

Not applicable.

#### 4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General considerations. Design and application considerations, as well as economic factors, shall govern the selection and use of materials, processes, and products used in the production of military materiel. Whenever procurement documents do not explicitly specify standards and specifications to be used, selection of a suitable standard or specification for a specific

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design application shall be the responsibility of the design activity. In this selection, the following design considerations shall govern:

4.1.1 Technical suitability. Items shall be selected from standards and specifications where such exist, but in every case, they must be technically suitable in every respect for their application. Such factors as function, environment, reliability, strength, safety, and interchangeability shall satisfy the design parameters in every respect. The use of a standard, specification, or other document does not, in itself, assure the suitability of an item for any specific application.

4.1.2 Economic considerations. When two or more products will satisfy design parameters, selection shall be made in such manner as to be most economical to the Government. This economy includes, but is not necessarily limited to, consideration of costs related to initial fabrication, production, reliability, operation, maintenance, supply, and replacement.

## 5. DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Precedence. Upon completion of the review of design considerations, including but not limited to provisions of section 4 herein, standards and specifications shall be selected in the group and subgroup order of precedence indicated in the following subparagraphs. The selection of a standard or specification of lower precedence is to be made only when the standards and specifications from groups above it do not provide items technically or economically (see section 4) suitable for the application. The selection of a document within any one grouping of standards and specifications shall be; a suitable standard, if any, over a suitable specification.

5.1.1 Special lists. When determined necessary by the Government command or agency concerned, listing of standards and specifications for special applications may be invoked by contractual provisions. The special lists may also contain documentation that is not in standard or specification form. Such listings are to be organized in consonance with the requirements of this standard, and when used shall take precedence over the groups listed below.

5.1.2 Group I. Group I covers standards and specifications individually listed in the Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS).

### Subgroups:

- a. Coordinated Federal standards and specifications
- b. Coordinated Military standards and specifications (including JAN's, AN's, and AND's)

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c. Industry standards and specifications (e.g. those promulgated by nationally recognized associations, committees, and technical societies) having coordinated status established under Department of Defense policies and procedures

d. Limited coordination military and interim Federal standards and specifications issued by the Government command or agency concerned

e. Industry standards and specifications having limited coordination status established by the Government command or agency concerned under Department of Defense policies and procedures.

f. Limited coordination military and interim Federal standards and specifications issued by other Government commands or agencies.

5.1.3 Group II. Group II covers industry standards and specifications promulgated by nationally recognized industry associations, committees, and technical societies, for which status equivalent to military documents has not been established and which are not listed in the DODISS. Copies of industry standards and specifications are not available from the Government, and should be obtained from the association concerned.

5.1.4 Group III. Group III covers Government standards and specifications other than those of the military and Federal series, and not listed in the DODISS (e.g. FAA and NASA specifications, etc).

5.1.5 Group IV. Group IV covers company standards and specifications.

5.2 Use of standards, specifications, or drawings. Satisfactory operation of equipment procured under any standard, specification, or drawing is the responsibility of the contractor, and the use of such standards, specifications, or drawings listed for use by the Government command or agency concerned is in no way to be considered as a guaranty of Government acceptance of the finished product.

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6. NOTES

6.1 Identification of changes. Asterisks are not used in this revision to identify changes with respect to the previous issue, due to the extensiveness of the changes.

Custodians:

Army - MU  
Navy - AS  
Air Force - 11

Preparing activity:  
Air Force - 11

Project No. MISC-0540

Review activities:

Army - AD, AT, AV, CE, EL, GL, IH, MD, ME, MI, MR, SM, WC.  
Navy - CG, EC, MC, MS, OM, OS, PE, SA, SH, TD, YD.  
Air Force - 03, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 25, 26, 28, 34, 43, 44, 68,  
69, 70, 71, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85.  
DSA - AR, CS, DH, ES, GS, IS, PS.

User activities:

Air Force - 19  
DSA - IP



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