

**MIL-STD-155A**

**5 August 1955**

**SUPERSEDING**

**MIL-STD-155**

**29 February 1952**

**MILITARY STANDARD**

**JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC**

**TYPE DESIGNATION SYSTEM**



**MIL-STD-155A**  
**5 August 1955**

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
**WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

5 August 1955

Supply and Logistics  
Joint Photographic Type Designation System  
MIL-STD-155A

1. This standard has been approved by the Department of Defense for use by the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.
2. In accordance with established procedure, the Standardization Division has designated the Signal Corps, Bureau of Aeronautics and Air Force, respectively, as Army-Navy-Air Force custodians of this standard.
3. This standard is mandatory for use effective, 5 October 1955 by the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.
4. Recommended corrections, additions, or deletions should be addressed to the Standardization Division, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistic), Washington 25, D. C.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Where type designations are used by agencies in the Department of Defense for photographic items, they shall be in accordance with this Standard.

1.2 Item names used with type designations shall be in accordance with the policies of the Cataloging Division, OASD (S&L) or its successor.

1.3 The system is designed to:

- (a) Be logical in principle so that the combination of type designation and item name will be readily understood.
- (b) Be flexible and sufficiently broad in scope to cover present types of equipment and the types and uses of equipment which will be developed in the future.
- (c) Provide adequate identification with or without the item name.
- (d) Provide a ready means of clearly identifying equipment in correspondence and other means of communications without divulging security information.

## 2. GENERAL POLICY

### 2.1 Definitions.

2.1.1 *Nomenclature.* As used in this standard, the term nomenclature means the combination of official item name and type designation.

2.1.2 *Basic Assignment.* An assignment identifying the general design of the equipment; it consists of the two letter combination, model number and empty parentheses.

2.1.3 *Production Assignment.* An assignment identifying a specific production item or group of production items; it consists of the basic assignment modified by deletion of the

empty parentheses and replacement thereof by a suffix letter or combination of a suffix letter and a production issue number.

2.1.4 *Preparing Activity.* As used herein, preparing activity means the Air Force.

### 2.2 Security Classification.

2.2.1 Nomenclature assignments shall be unclassified in order to provide a ready means of identification in correspondence and other means of communication in the clear.

2.2.2 The security classification of the request forms used in obtaining type designation assignments shall be in accordance with the content of the description and with military security requirements.

2.2.3 The security classification of the item described shall be stated in the item description.

2.3 *Application.* Photographic type designations shall be assigned to the following:

- (a) Complete items of photographic equipment designed for military use.
- (b) Components, accessories, and attachments for photographic equipment designed for military use, for which Government procurement data is contemplated.
- (c) Commercial photographic articles adopted for military use, for which Government procurement data is contemplated.
- (d) Groups, sets, or systems of photographic articles of either military or commercial design which are grouped to perform a specific photographic function.

2.3.1 Photographic type designations may be assigned upon request by one service for photographic items identified in another service by a stock number. Coordination shall be effected with that service and its approval

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obtained before assignment is made by the requesting service.

2.4 Requests for basic assignments may be made at any time at the discretion of the requiring service but preferably at the initiation of the project.

2.5 All services shall use photographic nomenclature exactly as assigned. Where space precludes the spelling out of the item name, abbreviations conforming to Military Standard, MIL-STD-12A may be used except that the basic noun or noun phrases shall be spelled out. Each change required to convert to Federal item names may be made without approval of the preparing activity, providing the preparing activity is advised of the change in writing.

2.6 The skipping of numbers in type designation assignments is prohibited and consecutive numbering shall be used. Reservation of blocks of numbers is not permitted.

2.7 The preparing activity shall investigate each request for type designation assignments to insure against duplication.

2.8 Requests by a service for modification letters to type designations for items which were assigned type designations at the request of another service shall be coordinated by the preparing activity with the original service for concurrence before the modification letter is assigned.

2.9 Nomenclature assignments using word sequence in the latest manner prescribed by Cataloging Division OASD (S&L), or its successor, shall be applied to items of equipment in assigning production suffix letters.

2.10 Nomenclature may be cancelled upon request by the originating service when both of the following conditions exist:

- (a) There has been no procurement of the item.
- (b) No experimental models exist.

2.11 A photographic type designation cancelled in accordance with paragraph 2.10 of this standard, shall not be reissued to identify another item. A cancellation type designation card shall be issued to insure against reissues.

2.12 Each type designation is justified on the basis of a description which contains sufficient electrical, mechanical and reference data to distinguish the item described from all other items. The same type designation shall not be used to identify items which differ in operational, electrical, or mechanical characteristics.

2.13 All requests for type designations shall be submitted on DD Form 61 (See Figure No. 1) or similar form containing all information required by DD Form 61 with the description of the item in accordance with "Federal Item Identification Guides for Supply Cataloging," or in sufficient detail to adequately describe the item. For administrative reasons, the functional description shall be made to demand the least restrictive security classification. Form 61 or similar form shall be used for requesting assignment of a new type number, modification letter, issue number, or description change. These requests will be transmitted to the preparing activity.

2.14 The preparing activity, after assignment of a new photographic type designation or issue number, shall prepare and distribute type designation cards for the information of all concerned. Such cards shall also be prepared and distributed for amended descriptions. This distribution shall be in accordance with a mailing list established on a "need-to-know" basis by requests from the Military Departments. Distribution shall be made on a semimonthly basis.

### 3. BREAKDOWN OF SYSTEM

3.1 The type designations assigned under this system shall be used with approved item

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name to form the complete nomenclature and shall consist of the following: (If a name has not been published, the requesting activity shall obtain an item name from its federal cataloging organization).

### 3.2 Example.

Two Letter Code				
KA	-	7	A	1
	Dash	Model Number	Suffix Letter	Production Issue Number

*Note.*—Basic assignment shall use an empty parentheses, ( ), in lieu of the suffix letter and the production issue number.

3.2.1 Following are examples of complete production nomenclature assigned under this system:

Camera, Still Picture KA-1A (1st production assignment).

Camera, Still Picture KA-1A1 (Same item, different maintenance parts).

3.2.2 Following is an example of complete basic nomenclature assigned under this system:

Camera, Still Picture KA-1( )

3.3 For the purpose of this type designation system, photographic equipment shall be divided into three categories, as follows:

- (a) Picture-taking equipment  
(Cameras)
- (b) Picture-processing equipment
- (c) Picture-using equipment

3.4 Each category is assigned a distinctive letter designation, indicating major item, ac-

cessory, attachment, or component. Likewise, the general mission or function of each item is assigned a distinctive letter designation. The category letter and the mission letter together from the two letter portion of the type designation.

3.4.1 Each two-letter combination shall have a separate series of model numbers assigned in sequence, beginning at "1" (i.e. KA-1, KA-2, KB-1, KB-2, etc.).

3.4.2 Following the model number for each basic assignment shall be an empty parentheses, denoting only that the assignment is a basic assignment. (i.e. KA-1( ), KA-2( ), KB-1( ), etc.).

3.4.3 The suffix letter "A" shall be assigned to the type designation, in lieu of the empty parentheses, to indicate the first production assignment.

3.4.4 New suffix letters shall be assigned when the requirements in the procurement data are so changed that different design or construction features are mandatory, with the further provision that electrical, functional and necessary dimensional substitutability of the end item are not affected. These suffix letters shall be assigned in alphabetical sequence, beginning at "B."

3.4.5 Production issue numbers, when required, shall be assigned to a given model number and suffix letter when a manufacturer uses different maintenance parts. Interchangeability is required for an issue number, i.e., all versions of a given suffix letter must be interchangeable.

3.4.6 Therefore, the basic assignment shall consist of a two letter code, model number and parentheses, e.g., Camera, Still Picture KA-1( ). The first production assignment shall drop the parentheses and replace it with the suffix letter "A" e.g., Camera, Still Picture KA-1A. Subsequent maintenance parts

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changes shall be indicated by the assignment of a production issue number, e.g., Camera, Still Picture KA-1A1.

*Examples:*

- KA-1( )—Basic assignment.
- KA-1A —First production assignment.
- KA-1A1—Second production assignment, (Different maintenance parts only from KA-1A).
- KA-1A2—Third production assignment. (Different manufacturers, utilizing different maintenance parts lists for either KA-1A or KA-1A1).
- KA-1B —Subsequent production assignment. (Manufacturer modification of KA-1A, including one way progressive substitutability with the KA-1A).
- KA-1B1 —Subsequent production assignment. (Different maintenance parts for KA-1B).

3.4.7 Issue numbers shall be provided the manufacturer for inclusion on the nameplates

when he informs the contracting officer of the new part number. The contracting officer shall obtain issue numbers, through requiring activity, from the preparing activity, and at the same time give the requiring activity the new part number or other identification.

3.4.8 Modification or improvements which affect electrical, physical, or functional interchangeability shall require the next number available for that particular two letter combination, provided the mission is not changed; otherwise an entirely new type designation shall be assigned under the applicable two letter combination.

3.4.9 Type designations shall be requested preferably in the development phase and in all cases prior to production to identify equipment.

**4. CATEGORIES OF ITEMS**

4.1 The category letters are defined as follows:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| K—Cameras:                | Photographic information gathering devices.  |
| L—Camera Accessories:     | Mounts, Camera Tripods, Camera Covers, Film Handling Equipment, Detectors, Control Equipment, Lenses, Lens Cones, Shutters, Lens Mounts, Filters, Lighting Equipment, Flash Assemblies, Floodlights, Arc Lights, etc.  |
| E—Processing Equipment:   | Equipment used for the conversion of photographic image to a utilizable form.  |
| F—Processing Accessories: | Control equipment for development (Temperature Control, Air and Solution Ph Control, Solution replenishment, and Sensitometric Equipment), Development Aids (chemical mixers, pumps, splicers, film clips, film hangers, and chemical storage devices). Control Equipment Duplication (exposure judging devices, contrast controls, voltage controls, light filters peculiar to processing timers, clocks, etc.). Duplication Aids (retouching brushes and tools, adapters for printers, film masks, easels, copy boards, lighting equipment for copy work, etc.). |
| A—Using Equipment:        | Equipment used in the extraction of information from a photographic image.   |
| B—Using Accessories:      | Projection Screens, Stands, Sound Reproduction Equipment, Interpretation and Aerial Map Preparation Equipment (including photographic items such as: Computers, Slide Rules, Measuring Devices, Calipers, Height Finders, Grids, and Recognition and Identification Equipment), etc.   |

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#### 4.2 The mission letters are defined as follows:

##### A. PICTURE TAKING EQUIPMENT (CAMERAS):

<i>Category Letter</i>	<i>Mission Letter</i>
K—Camera	A—Reconnaissance
L—Accessories Attachments or components for Cameras	B—Strike Recording
	C—Aerial Mapping
	D—Scope Recording
	E—Still Picture—Not otherwise classified
	F—Motion Picture—Not otherwise classified
	G—Special Purpose (including instrumentation)
	M—Miscellaneous (Applying to more than one of the above types—Used only with accessory letters).
	S—Set or System

##### B. PICTURE PROCESSING EQUIPMENT:

<i>Category Letter</i>	<i>Mission Letter</i>
E—Processing Equipment	H—Processing Machines
F—Accessories, Attachments or components for Processing Equipment	J—Developers
	K—Washers
	L—Driers
	N—Printers (including rectifying printers, Motion picture printers, contact printers and projection printers).
	M—Miscellaneous (Applying to more than one of the above types—Used only with accessory letters).
	S—Set or System

##### C. PICTURE USING EQUIPMENT

<i>Category Letter</i>	<i>Mission Letter</i>
A—Using Equipment	P—Projectors—Still
	Q—Projectors—Motion Picture
B—Accessories, Attachments or components for Using Equipment	R—Viewing Devices
	M—Miscellaneous (Applying to more than one of the above types—Used only with accessory letters).
	S—Set or System



**MIL-STD-155A****5 August 1955****4.3 Examples of type designation sequence are:**

- KF-1( )—Basic assignment
- KF-1A —Initial production assignment
- KF-1A1—Different manufacturer or different maintenance parts
- KF-1B —Design modifications not affecting one-way progressive substitutability

**4.4 Examples of complete basic nomenclature are:**

- a. Camera, Motion Picture KF-1( )
- b. Floodlight, Electric LM-1( )
- c. Camera Set, Still Picture KS-1( )
- d. Processing Machine, Photographic Film EH-1( )
- e. Drier, Photographic Print EL-1( )
- f. Processing Unit, Photographic Film EJ-1( )
- g. Safelight, Darkroom, Photographic FM-2( )
- h. Projector, Motion Picture, Sound AQ-1( )
- i. Viewer, Still Picture AR-1( )
- j. Projection Set, Motion Picture AS-1( )
- k. Amplifier, Audio Frequency BQ-1( )

**4.5 Examples of complete initial production nomenclature are:**

- a. Camera, Motion Picture KF-1A
- b. Floodlight, Electric LM-1A
- c. Camera Set, Still Picture KS-1A
- d. Processing Machine, Photographic Film EH-1A
- e. Drier, Photographic Print EL-1A
- f. Processing Unit, Photographic Film EJ-1A
- g. Safelight, Darkroom, Photographic FM-2A
- h. Projector, Motion Picture, Sound AQ-1A
- i. Viewer, Still Picture AR-1A
- j. Projection Set, Motion Picture AS-1A
- k. Amplifier, Audio Frequency BQ-1A

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