

**NON-MEASUREMENT  
SENSITIVE**

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12 NOVEMBER 1969**

# **MILITARY STANDARD**

**STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS,  
ORDER OF PREFERENCE  
FOR THE SELECTION OF**



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Washington, DC 20301-3060

Standards and Specifications, Order of Preference for the Selection of

1. This Military Standard is approved for use by all Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense.

2. Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and any pertinent data which may be of use in improving this document should be addressed to: Director, Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO), 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1403, Falls Church, VA 22041-3466, or by using the self-addressed Standardization Document Improvement Proposal (DD Form 1426) appearing at the end of this document or by letter.

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## FOREWORD

The Department of Defense is committed to increased defense contractor productivity and improved acquisition efficiency. Standardization documents play an important role in this context, and must be selected and properly applied with this objective in mind. They provide the framework by which requirements are defined. They must allow for the various contractual circumstances and environments that exist, and must promote an atmosphere in which appropriate cost, benefit, and risk tradeoffs can be made.

As a result of making significant changes in the order of preference, MIL-STD-143 has been cancelled and the new designation is MIL-STD-970. These changes were made as a result of DoD policy to increase the use of non-Government standards and to streamline the acquisition process by selective application and tailoring of standardization documents. These changes reflect the DoD belief that proper consideration of requirements and commercial practice is important to the cost effective selection, application, and tailoring of these documents.

If higher order standards and specifications become available subsequent to completion of a development contract, it is not intended that they automatically supersede the original selection of standards and specifications as long as design requirements are met. The desirability of supersession in subsequent development or reprocurement contracts for the same material should be established as appropriate.

Feedback on the success or difficulties (benefits and costs) encountered in the application of this document on specific contracts and on in-house document selection activities is encouraged. Contractor/industry and government experience should be provided to the Director, Defense Standardization Program Office, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1403, Falls Church, VA 22041-3466.

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## 1. SCOPE

1.1 Scope. This standard sets forth the order of preference for the selection of standards and specifications used in the design, acquisition, construction and support of materiel for the Department of Defense in compliance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119 on using commercial practices and non-Government standards.

1.2 Application. This standard is intended for application in those specifications or other acquisition documents where it is necessary to control the design selection of items, materials, and processes not otherwise specified in the acquisition documents or in special list specifically invoked.

## 2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

2.1 Government documents.

2.1.1 Specifications, standards, and handbooks. Unless otherwise specified, the following documents of the issue listed in that issue of the Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS) specified in the solicitation form a part of this standard to the extent specified herein (see 2.3.1).

## STANDARDS

## MILITARY

MIL-STD-490 - Specification Practices.

MIL-STD-961 - Military Specifications and Associated Documents, Preparation of.

MIL-STD-962 - Military Standards and Handbooks, Preparation of.

2.1.2 Other Government documents and publications. The following other Government documents and publications of the issue specified in the solicitation form a part of this standard to the extent specified herein (see 2.3.2).

DODISS - Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards and appropriate supplement.

SD-1 - Standardization Directory (FSC Class and Area Assignments).

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2.2 Order of precedence. In the event of a conflict between the text of this standard and the references cited herein, the text of this standard shall take precedence.

2.3 Source of documents.

2.3.1 Government specifications, standards, and handbooks. Copies of the referenced federal and military specifications, standards, and handbooks are available from the Department of Defense Single Stock Point, Commanding Officer, Naval Publications and Forms Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120-5099. For specific acquisition functions, these documents should be obtained from the contracting activity or as directed by the contracting activity.

2.3.2 Other Government documents. Copies of other Government documents required by contractors in connection with specific acquisition functions should be obtained from the contracting activity or as directed by the contracting activity. The documents listed may be obtained as follows:

- a. Copies of the SD-1 are available from the Department of Defense Single Stock Point, Commanding Officer, Naval Publications and Forms Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120-5099.
- b. Copies of the DODISS and latest supplements should be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Commercial Item Description (CID). A simplified product description or specification that describes by salient functional or performance characteristics the available, acceptable commercial products that will satisfy the Government's needs. CIDs are prepared under guidelines issued by the General Services Administrations Federal Supply Service (GSA-FSS), and are listed in the DODISS.

3.2 Item (item of supply). An end item, component, or part, records for which are maintained for stock, storage, and issuance in support of military requirements. (Examples of items of supply are airplanes, ships, trucks, radars, radar components, hand tools, fasteners, uniforms, and food.)

3.3 Non-Government standard (NGS). A standardization document developed by a private sector association, organization, or technical society which plans, develops, establishes, or coordinates standards, specifications, handbooks, or related documents.

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3.4 Standardization Directory (SD-1). A document issued quarterly that identifies standardization responsibility assignments by Federal Supply Classes and Standardization Areas, and provides the addresses of the military offices, federal civil agencies, and non-Government standards bodies participating in the Defense Standardization and Specification Program (DSSP).

3.5 Standards and specifications. As used herein, includes all non-Government standards, Federal and Military standards and specifications, CIDs, standardized military drawings and purchase descriptions.

#### 4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General considerations. Design, application, and quality considerations, as well as economic factors, shall govern the selection of items and processes used in the design, acquisition, construction, and support of materiel for the DoD. Whenever acquisition documents do not explicitly specify the items or standards and specifications to be used, selection of a suitable standard or specification for a specific design application shall be the responsibility of the contracting or design activity. In this selection process, the following considerations shall govern.

4.1.1 Technical suitability. Items and processes shall be selected or tailored from existing standards and specifications which are technically suitable in every respect for the intended application. Factors, such as function, environment, quality, transportability, reliability, strength, safety, and interchangeability shall be considered in the selection to satisfy the design parameters in every respect. The use of a standard, specification, or other document does not, in itself, ensure the suitability of an item or process for any specific application.

4.1.2 Economic considerations. When two or more items or processes will satisfy design parameters, selection shall be made in such a manner as to be most economical to the Government. Economic factors include, but are not necessarily limited to, consideration of costs (including life-cycle costs), related to initial fabrication, production, reliability, operation, maintenance or support, supply, and replacement.

#### 5. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Preference. Upon completion of the review of design considerations, including but not limited to provisions of section 4 herein, standards and specifications shall be considered and selected in the descending group and subgroup order of preference indicated in the following paragraphs unless the acquisition documents specify the specific standards and specifications to be used or a special list (see 5.2). The selection of a standard or specification of lower preference is to be made only when the standards and specifications from groups above it do



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not describe items or processes technically or economically suitable for the application (see section 4).

5.1.1 Group I. Group I includes those standards and specifications which are mandatory for use by law or regulation pursuant to law. These include mandatory standards and specifications issued by the Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), as well as mandatory Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) and Federal Telecommunication Standards. This group also includes standards and specifications which implement multinational treaty organization standardization agreements, such as NATO STANAGs, AQAPs, and QSTAGS. The standards and specifications which implement the above are mandatory for use in those instances where they apply.

5.1.2 Group II. Group II includes standards, specifications, handbooks, and related documents promulgated by national and international non-Government standards bodies (NGSB). These documents, often termed voluntary or industry standards, and referred to herein as non-Government standards (NGS), shall be used directly in acquisitions where appropriate, or they may be referenced in other Government or non-Government standards, specifications, and purchase descriptions.

5.1.2.1 Subgroup IIA. Subgroup IIA includes those NGS formally adopted by the DoD.

5.1.2.2 Subgroup IIB. Subgroup IIB includes those other NGS which have not been formally adopted by the DoD and are not listed in the DODISS.

5.1.3 Group III. Group III includes Federal series standards and specifications with registered DoD interest.

5.1.3.1 Subgroup IIIA. Subgroup IIIA includes only Commercial Item Descriptions (CIDs).

5.1.3.2 Subgroup IIIB. Subgroup IIIB includes only coordinated Federal standards and specifications.

5.1.4 Group IV. Group IV includes military standards and specifications, and standardized military drawings (SMDs).

5.1.4.1 Subgroup IVA. Subgroup IVA includes coordinated military standards and specifications (including JANs, ANs, and ANDs) in accordance with MIL-STD-962 and MIL-STD-961, respectively.

5.1.4.2 Subgroup IVB. Subgroup IVB includes limited coordination military standards and specifications issued by the requiring DoD Service, Agency, or activity, and SMDs.

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5.1.5 Group V.

5.1.5.1 Subgroup VA. Subgroup VA includes only those interim Federal standards and specifications developed by the DoD Service, Agency, or activity concerned.

5.1.5.2 Subgroup VB. Subgroup VB includes limited coordination or "used-in-lieu of" military standards and specifications issued by a DoD Service, Agency, or activity other than the preparing activity of the basic document.

5.1.6 Group VI. Group VI includes CIDs and Federal standards and specifications for which DoD has not registered interest.

5.1.7 Group VII. Group VII includes standards and specifications and related publications issued by the Government which are outside the military or federal series, and, therefore, are not listed in the DODISS.

5.1.7.1 Subgroup VIIA. Subgroup VIIA includes those Group VII documents issued by Government agencies other than DoD (for example, FAA and NASA specifications).

5.1.7.2 Subgroup VIIB. Subgroup VIIB includes those purchase specifications, purchase descriptions, product descriptions, and program peculiar specifications prepared in accordance with MIL-STD-490 for the non-repetitive acquisition of development items and other items of supply.

5.1.8 Group VIII. Group VIII includes all standards and specifications not covered by Groups I through VII.

5.2 Special lists. When determined necessary by the DoD Service, Agency, or activity concerned, listing of standards and specifications for special applications may be invoked by contractual provisions. The special lists may also specify documentation that is not in standard or specification form. Such listings are to be developed and organized in consonance with the requirements of this standard and, when used, shall take preference over the groups listed above.

## 6. NOTES

6.1 Intended use. This standard is intended for use in new design to provide the prescribed order of preference for consideration in the selection of standards and specifications by individuals involved in the design and development of weapon systems, subsystems, and equipment, as well as in the development of Military Bulletins and other special lists. It is also intended to prescribe the order of selection of the appropriate product descriptions by acquisition managers for use directly in acquisition of items of supply such as food, clothing, and government furnished

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equipment. This standard does not contain any requirements for submission and approval and does not supersede the order of precedence or design requirements of other specified standardization documents such as general specifications.

6.2 Subject term (key word) listing.

Commercial item description  
Design items  
Development items  
DODISS  
Economic considerations  
Item of supply  
Military bulletin  
Multi-national treaty organization  
Non-Government standard  
Order of precedence  
Precedence  
Purchase description  
Purchase specification  
Special list  
Technical Suitability

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Custodians:

Army - AR  
Navy - AS  
Air Force - 99  
DLA - DH

Preparing activity:  
OSD-S0  
(Project No. GDRQ-0072)

Review activities:

Army - AV, CR, ER, GL, ME, MI, MR, SM, TE, TM  
Navy - EC, OS, SA, SH, YD  
Air Force - 68, 79  
DLA - CS, ES, GS  
NASA - NA  
DNA - DS  
JTC<sup>3</sup>A - JT  
DCA - DC

User activities:

Army - AL, AT, EA  
Air Force - 13, 14, 17, 18, 19

