

MIL-STD-1188A  
5 January 1978  
~~SUPERSEDING~~  
MIL-STD-1188  
1 September 1977

MILITARY STANDARD

COMMERCIAL PACKAGING OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

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

1. **SCOPE.** This standard establishes minimum commercial preservation, packing and marking requirements for supplies and equipment, exclusive of ammunition, explosives and hazardous materials.

2. **REQUIREMENTS.**

2.1 **General.** Subject to the limitations set forth below, commercial preservation, packing and marking is acceptable for the procurement. Bulk preservation, packing, and marking such as is used in interplant and intraplant shipments, and for shipment to packaging jobbers and part distribution outlets for preservation and packing is not acceptable. This standard neither requires nor precludes the use of Federal or military methods or materials.

2.2 **Packaging.** Preservation, packing and marking furnished by the supplier shall meet or exceed the following minimum requirements.

2.2.1 **Cleanliness.** Items shall be free from dirt and contaminants which would contribute to deterioration of the item or which would require cleaning by the customer prior to use. Coatings and preservatives applied to the item for protection are not considered contaminants.

2.2.2 **Preservative.** Items susceptible to corrosion or deterioration shall be provided protection such as preservative coatings, volatile corrosion inhibitors or desiccated unit packs.

2.2.3 **Cushioning.** Items requiring protection from physical and mechanical damage or which are fragile in nature shall be protected by wrapping, cushioning, pack compartmentization, cartonizing, or other means to mitigate shock and vibration during handling and shipment.

2.2.4 **Unit pack quantity.** Unless otherwise specified, the unit quantity shall not exceed 50 pieces or 25 pounds whichever occurs first. Single items weighing over 10 pounds shall be individually packaged. Items with unit quantities specified by measurement of weight, length or volume shall be packaged as specified in the contract. Intermediate packing of unit packs is not required but is acceptable.

2.2.5 **Packaging of kits and sets.** Components shall be suitably segregated and identified within the unit pack. Kits and sets shall be individually packaged in accordance with the applicable requirements of this standard. Each shall include a content listing.

2.2.6 **Packing.** Unit packs shall be packed in exterior shipping containers that meet common carrier acceptance and provide safe delivery to destination at lowest rates. Unit packs which conform to these requirements need no supplemental protection.

2.2.7 **Marking.** Unless otherwise specified, unit, intermediate (when provided) and exterior packs shall, as a minimum, be marked as follows by any means which provides legibility and durability:

- a. National Stock Number (NSN) or part number when NSN is not available.

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- b. Noun nomenclature.
- c. Quantity and unit of issue.
- d. Contract, purchase order or delivery order number.
- e. Additional markings as may be required by the contract.
- f. Exterior shipping containers shall be marked with the appropriate address and caution marking except for full carloads or full truckloads to a single CONUS consignee.
- g. One copy of the shipping documents and contract or order documentation shall be attached to the outside in an envelope or placed inside the container.

NOTE: Contractors are encouraged to use advanced packaging technology, and innovative methods or materials for the purpose of effecting packaging economies.

**2.3 Alternate requirements.**

2.3.1 When specified in the contract by reference to this paragraph, the supplier's "off-the-shelf" or "over-the-counter" packaging will be acceptable. This protection is intended for items which will not enter the military distribution system but will be consumed at the first receiving activity. The exterior (shipping) containers shall be in accordance with applicable carrier rules to insure safe delivery.

2.3.2 When specified in the contract by reference to this paragraph, the supplier shall furnish the packaging which is known to and approved by the contracting officer and conforms to one of the following criteria:

- a. The known and established preservation and packing procedures of the supplier.
- b. The supplier's procedures for protection of the item(s) meet or exceed the requirements of this standard (excluding 2.3.1 above).
- c. Acceptability is due to the industry standard(s) for the specific item(s) or commodity group(s).

NOTE: For DOD activities, this standard may be used in lieu of FED. STD. No. 356, which is scheduled for deletion from the Federal Index.

**Military Custodians**

Army - SM  
Air Force - 69  
Navy - SA  
DLA - DH

**Reviewing Activities**

Army - MR, GL, AL, ME, MI, EL, AT  
Air Force - 11, 16  
DLA - ES  
GS

**User Activity**

Army - AR

**Preparing Activity**

Army - SM  
PACK - 0582