

APTAC Body of Knowledge Competency Guide

C. Basics of Contracting with Government Entities

C.11 Packaging

Description

Part A: Background and Definitions

Contract marking and packing requirements are usually found in Section D of the solicitation. However, the clause regarding palletization can be in Section F. The solicitation document outlines for the contractor what marking, labeling, packaging and preservation is required for the requested supply item.

Definition of terms:

Commercial Packaging is any packaging developed by the supplier. The DOD has adopted ASTM 3951 as its standard for commercial packaging.

Performance-Based Packaging is when a buying agency indicates the outcome and performance criteria for packages but does not dictate to the contractor specific methods on how to achieve the desired performance. It is DOD policy to use commercial or performance based packaging when procuring commercial items if at all possible.

Marking is the application of numbers, letters, labels, tags, symbols or colors to provide identification and to expedite handling and location during shipment and storage.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is an automatic identification and data capture technology comprised of one or more reader/interrogators and one or more RF transponders in which data transfer is achieved

Item Unique Identification (IUID) is a system of established unique item identifiers within DOD, by assigning a machine-readable character string which serves to distinguish it from other items.

Unique Item Identifier (UII) is the set of data elements marked on items that is globally unique, unambiguous and robust enough to ensure data information quality

Military Packaging is specifically required standards developed by DOD. Military packaging is required only when commercial packaging cannot meet known distribution and environmental requirements.

Military preservation is the specific method(s) designating the application of materials and/or methods designed to protect an item during shipment, handling, and storage.

Military packing is the specific DOD designated application of any exterior protective methods, materials, or devices to assure the integrity of the preserved item.

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Electrostatic Discharge Sensitive (ESDS) items are items that are susceptible to damage or degradation as a result of an electrostatic discharge event during shipment or storage.

Hazardous material is a material, substance, or waste that has been determined to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce and that has been so designated. (This includes all items listed as hazardous in Titles 29, 40 and 49 CFR and other applicable modal regulations effective at the time of shipment.)

Part B: References

There are several very good web resources to understand packaging some of them are:

Defense Supply Center Columbus <http://www.dsccl.dla.mil/offices/packaging/>

Packaging Code look up- http://palm.saic.com/code_lookup.nsf

DOD automatic identification technologies - <http://www.acq.osd.mil/log/rfid/index.htm>

Defense Program Development and Implementation Unique Identification (UID) site
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pdi/uid/index.html>

DOD policy on packaging- http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pass/pa/docs/414001r_ch8503.pdf

MIL-STD-129P “Military Marking for Shipment and Storage”
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/log/rfid/MIL-STD-129PCH4.pdf>

MIL –STD-2073 1E (2011) “Standard Practice for Military Packaging”

<https://acc.dau.mil/adl/en-US/44775/file/56106/MIL-STD-2073-1E%20with%20Chg%201.pdf>

Commercial Packaging ASTM 3951 available for sale at <http://www.astm.org/>