

22 FEB 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information and Management Support Staff, OL

FROM: [Redacted] Chief, Supply Division, OL

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SUBJECT: Proposed Procedural Changes Under CLAS

REFERENCE: Memorandum for C/IMSS from C/SD, dtd 5 Feb 88, Same Subject

Deputy Chief, Information and Management Support Staff has requested additional information regarding Supply Division's (SD) concerns regarding use of the part number as a file key under CLAS. SD's concerns, comments, and a few examples are provided in the attached outline. SD understands CLAS' rationale for wanting to assist two of Office of Logistics' (OL) major customers, but we must look at and try to project possible outcome for all of OL's customers. Please review the attached and at your convenience, contact [Redacted] on secure [Redacted] to arrange a meeting to discuss our position.

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Attachment

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- I. Only question in debate.
 - A. Should the Federal Stock Number be mandatory as the file key for CLAS?
- II. Advantages of using the part number as the file key.
 - A. May save some customers one step in their research.
- III. Disadvantages of not using the FSN as the file key.
 - A. Departing from a tried and proven system used successfully by all Federal Government Agencies and one we must continue to interface with.
 - B. Data readily available from FSN such as Federal Group and Class, descriptive information, and source of supply will be lost.
 - C. May result in requests for incorrect materials due to multiple use of the same part number.
 - D. May increase research time due to lack of a standardized starting point.
 - E. May result in additional work for Procurement since requests for stocked items may inadvertently be directed to them.
 - F. May result in duplication of efforts in stocking of materials since each inventory manager may stock like items under different numbers.
 - G. Current policies and procedures which could be carried over to CLAS intact will require extensive changes.
 - H. OL may lose partial control over system since each inventory manager will be assigning their own numbers.
 - I. Full extent of ramifications will not be known until system has been used over an extended period of time and changes may be more difficult and costly at that time.
- IV. While some customers may be comfortable with part numbers, SD is responsible for processing of all requests for materials.

V. Proposed part number approach will create serious problems for SD and customers due to duplication of model and/or part numbers. The same part number may be used by several different manufactures for totally different items.

A. ICS part number file provides numerous cases where there are multiple FSNS for a single part number. For example:

1. Part number M3.
 - a. FSS - over 50 FSNS.
 - b. ICS - three: photo flash lamp, binoculars, and map tacks.

B. M3 can only be used once as the file key.

1. Chance of getting right item on first try, one in three.
2. Hit on first try - research complete.
3. Miss on first try - start from beginning - extra work.

C. Miss on first try will be more the rule than the exception.

D. Some part numbers from the same vendor apply to more than one FSN. For example:

1. Part number 75PC-02T.
 - a. This part number is readily identifiable by most OC and OIT techs.
 - b. Item is a Wang PC which OC and OIT call an Intelligent Communications Terminal (ICT).
 - c. Part number also identifies two other Wang PCs, with different hardware configurations, in stock under different FSNS.
 - d. Since only one of the three can be identified with the file key 75PC-02T, you may or may not receive the item you want when relying on part number alone.

E. Part numbers such as M3, 75PC-02T, or PRT-205 will only mean something to an extremely small select group of customers.

1. Part numbers will mean nothing to vast majority of OL's customers or careerist.
2. Part numbers such as DESK1, CHAIR2, XYZ, etcetera will not reduce research time as more detailed info such as size, color, etal is required.
3. Use of the part nnumber as the file key will actually increase research time for most customers.

F. Use of part numbers by various inventory managers may result in unnecessary duplication of materiels in stock.

1. Similar items, fire extinguishers, desks, radios, etal under various inventory managers' unique numbers can result in duplication of efforts and overstocking.

2. Unique numbers may reduce availability of materiels between component allocations.

- a. If you don't know it's there, you can't draw it out.

3. May prevent OL from combining similar requirements in a general allocation for all to draw from.

4. Could have a detrimental effect by depleting MD's and LOC's available storage space.

VI. How is research conducted using part numbers?

A. Under the FSN system.

1. Part number is checked against the part number file.

2. If number cannot be found in the part number file, a check of the alpha description file may provide an answer.

3. If multiple FSNs are involved.

- a. Description provided for each FSN is reviewed.

- b. Correct item selected.

- c. Order placed.

B. Under the proposed system.

1. An item may or may not be listed by part number as the file key.

2. If the part number is used as the file key, it may or may not be the item the customer needs.

3. Where should the customer start?

a. Assume the customer will go through the standard research procedures used under the present system after trying hit of miss using the part number.

4. Standardized numbering techniques (FSN) and standardized cataloging procedures must be used. Otherwise, constant cataloging frustrations will develop in trying to please each customer who wants a part number established for their activity.

VII. FSN provides valuable information.

A. Group and Class used by knowledgeable Logistics Officers as well as generation of reports from automated systems.

B. Data Fields can be provided for Group and Class.

1. Fields must be mandatory.

a. May not be used unless mandatory.

b. Will require additional data input.

C. Other element of FSN is of value to the Log Officer in the field.

1. Letters such as "P", "H", "L" or "W" provide valuable data.

a. Item received with FSN annotated on packing list.

(1). Log Officer knows immediately if FSN, Headquarters stock, or Agency peculiar item.

2. Part number such as XYZ does not provide any usable data.

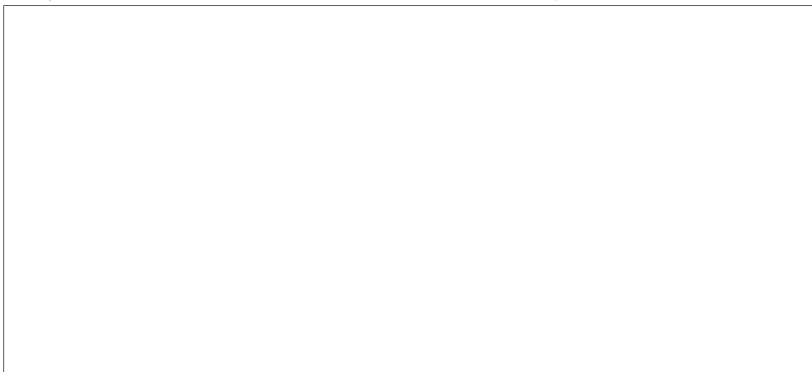
D. FSNs is used in correspondence.

1. Good FSNs can identify specific materiels.
2. Hqs assigned FSNs indicate no valid FSN.
3. FSN and Federal Classification Guide will identify type of materiel being discussed.

VIII. Agency should conform to Federal Standards.

- A. Agency is part of the Federal Government.
- B. Subject to Federal Regulations.
- C. Should, where possible, conform to Federal Standards.
- D. Agency part of FSS.
- E. Agency relies heavily on the FSS to establish, control, and delete items in a worldwide Federal system.
 1. FSS operates on the FSN concept.
 2. Must use FSN in all transactions with the FSS.
- F. Part number concept would result in maintaining two very different numbering systems for the same file key.

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X. A few "What if Examples".

A. What if scenario "A".

1. An OC engineer needs a standard 3/4 inch conduit connector.
2. He knows the connector is made by Thomas and Betts and is carried in a commercial catalog as part number T&B-123.

3. He tries to locate the item in the system.
 - a. He tries T&B-123. No such item.
 - b. He tries T&B123. No such item.
 - c. He tries TB123. Again, no such item.
 - d. He gives it one last try with TB-123. Same result.

4. He orders the item through Procurement.
5. If he had not relied so heavily on the part number and researched the item properly, he would have found.
 - a. Item is in stock under a Steel City part number.
 - b. Stock item less costly than procured item.
 - c. Deliver time considerably less than procured item.

6. Procurement was tasked to make an unnecessary purchase.

B. What if scenario "B".

1. What happens when one customer wants to use a number for his item and another customer wants to use the same number for something else?
2. OC has an item established in their allocated inventory called a PRS-7.
3. OTS comes up with a totally different item which they also call a PRS-7.
4. OC's item is carried in stock using PRS-7 as the file key.
5. An OTS engineer looks in the system and spots a PRS-7 which he needs for a priority operation in Bangkok.
6. He enters his request into the system.
7. The materiel is flashed through packing and shipped on the next available flight.
8. Result - Wrong materiel received in field even though correct part number ordered and an operational opportunity missed.

cataloging procedures already established for FSNs.

C. What if scenario "C".

1. See attached message.

a. Confusion exist today when we have a standard numbering system.

b. Problem will be compounded when no one has any idea as to which number an item will be stocked under.

XI. Final analysis.

A. Part number should be used as a reference, not as a file key.

1. Part number or any other cross-reference data can be placed in a reference table. This will:

a. Provide customers quick easy access to the FSN.

b. Allow use of single standardized numbering system.

c. In most cases, save research time and effort.

B. FSN should be retained as the file key.

C. Standard cataloging policies and procedures should be retained.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information and Management Support Staff, OL

FROM:
Chief, Supply Division, OL

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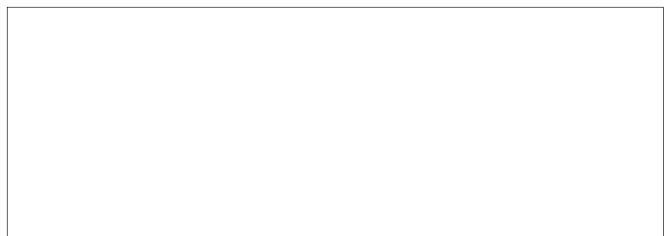
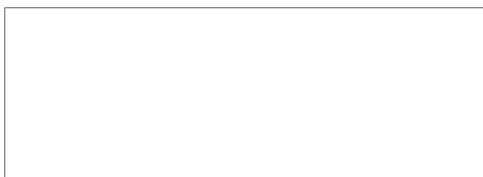
SUBJECT: Proposed Procedural Changes Under CLAS

REFERENCE: Memorandum for C/SD from CLAS/IMSS, dated 1 Feb 88, Subject: Comments on the Part Number Concept

1. Supply Division (SD) personnel are fully committed to ensuring the success of CLAS and are willing to do whatever is necessary to adapt to the new system. There are numerous areas which will necessitate change and SD personnel are ready, willing and able to assist in the development of procedures to cope with any foreseen changes or problems. However, unnecessary change should be avoided and in this regard, SD would like to voice its opposition to the Stock/Part Number concept proposed by the Commercial Logistics Applications System (CLAS) team.

2. SD personnel have discussed this concept with several members of the CLAS team. While the team has logical workable solutions to circumvent most of our objections, we still feel this is an unnecessary change and object to the concept. Our rationale follows: the Central Intelligence Agency is part of the Federal Government and depends on the Federal Supply System for support. The fact that only a third of the items in the Agency supply system have good Federal Stock Numbers (FSN) is immaterial. The FSN has a formal structure which provides information to system users. Granted, the value of this information depends on the experience of the user. Of more importance is the formal structure of the FSN which provides a standardized approach to item identification. To maintain order within the supply system, two things are required: a central point of control, and a structured numbering system. To allow inventory managers to randomly assign alpha numeric codes for part/stock numbers without some type of standardized

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basis could result in total havoc. SD has overall responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the Agency's Inventory Control System. SD, with a central point of control and a standardized numbering system, has problems which will be greatly compounded under the proposed concept. To allow individual inventory managers to establish their own system of stock numbers within the overall system without some common rationale basis will result in disorganization, confusion, and unpredictable results.

3. The FSN is a tried and proven standardized approach which works well and SD recommends this system be mandatory under CLAS. Also, to maintain uniformity in the system, ensure Federal cataloging standards are followed, prevent duplication of stock numbers, decrease the possibility of commercial items being stocked when an equivalent Federal Supply item is available, and reduce the likelihood of like items being carried under several stock numbers, SD should continue to retain responsibility for cataloging and stock number assignments.

4. Any questions regarding this matter should be referred to

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OL/SD/SMB/ [redacted] 5 February 1988

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