

**Fed. Std. No. 102b**

January 29, 1963

**SUPERSEDING**

Int. Fed. Std. No. 00102a (GSA-FSS)

August 13, 1962 and

Fed. Std. No. 102

January 16, 1957

**FEDERAL STANDARD**

**PRESERVATION, PACKAGING, AND PACKING  
LEVELS**

*Authority. This standard is issued pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and its application to the purchase of commodities referred to herein is mandatory on all Federal agencies.*

**S1. Purpose.** To define relative standards of protection by establishing levels of preservation and packaging and levels of packing which will serve as guidelines for contracting officers and procurement agents in procurement of supplies and equipment covered by Federal Specifications or other procurement documents.

**S2. Scope.** All supplies and equipment shall be afforded the degree of protection required to prevent deterioration or damage.

Since the range of shipping, handling and storage conditions are too broad to permit development of individual item requirements in one standard, three levels of protection are defined so that selections can be made under the conditions specified herein.

The conditions defined do not describe all situations nor do they limit the application of a particular level. (See S4.)

The definitions of levels as stated in this standard shall not be referenced in purchase documents but shall serve as guidelines for procurement personnel to determine the degree of protection required. Only the specific technical requirements applicable to the level of protection shall be referenced in the procurement document (see S3.) Guidance in the application of levels is contained in S4.

**S3. Application.** Proper selection of the applicable levels is dependent upon current available information relative to the probable distribution of the item involved and storage conditions likely to be encountered prior to ultimate issue to the consumer. Levels of protection are defined in terms of performance expected. The application of the levels therefore must be translated into specific technical requirements for each item under procurement. These requirements generally are referenced in federal specifications and in some purchase descriptions and invitations to bid. When the technical requirements, applicable to a specific level, are not included in such procurement documents, they shall be secured by the procurement activity from the Standardization Division, and included in the applicable procurement document.

**S3.1 Levels of protection.**

**S3.1.1 Preservation and packaging**

*Level A.* Preservation and packaging which will afford adequate protection against corrosion, deterioration and physical damage during shipment, handling, indeterminate storage and worldwide redistribution.

*Level B.* Preservation and packaging which will afford adequate protection against corrosion, deterioration, and physical damage during multiple reshipment, handling and

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known storage conditions for periods normally not exceeding one year.

*Level C.* Preservation and packaging which will afford adequate protection against corrosion, deterioration, and damage during shipment from supply source to the first receiving activity for immediate use. (vendor to user)

**S3.1.2 Packing.**

*Level A.* Packing which will afford adequate protection during shipment, handling, indeterminate storage, and worldwide redistribution.

*Level B.* Packing which will afford adequate protection against multiple domestic shipments, multiple handling, and covered storage.

*Level C.* Packing which will afford protection against damage during direct shipment from the supply source to the first receiving activity for immediate use.

**S4. Guidelines.**

**S4.1 Items for indeterminate use.** Items in this category are those for which the ultimate destination, handling, storage conditions and duration are unknown and cannot be determined at the time of procurement.

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| (a) Preservation and Packaging | Level A |
| (b) Packing                    | Level A |

**S4.2 Items for determinate use.** Items in this category are those for which the ultimate destination, handling, storage conditions and duration are known at the time of procurement. Generally this will include covered storage of not more than one year duration with subsequent multiple reshipments to consumer.

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| (a) Preservation and Packaging | Level B |
| (b) Packing                    | Level B |

**S4.3 Items for immediate use.** Items in this category are those for which procurement action has been initiated to satisfy an immediate need and where they are shipped by the supplier to the consumer for immediate use.

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| (a) Preservation and Packaging | Level C |
| (b) Packing                    | Level C |

(This level conforms to applicable carrier rules and regulations)

**S5. Changes.** When a Federal agency considers that a Federal Standard does not provide for its essential needs, written request for adding to or otherwise changing the standard, supported by adequate justification, shall be sent to the Administration. This justification shall explain wherein the standard does not provide for essential needs. The request shall be sent in duplicate to the General Services Administration, Standardization Division, Washington 25, D. C. The Administration will determine the appropriate action to be taken and will notify the agency.

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Single copies of this standard are available without charge at the GSA Regional Offices in Boston, New York, Washington, D. C., Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Mo., Dallas, Denver, San Francisco, and Auburn, Wash.

Additional copies may be purchased for 5 cents each from the General Services Administration, Business Service Center, Washington 25, D. C.