

FEDERAL SPECIFICATION

RAG, WIPING, COTTON AND COTTON-SYNTHETIC

This specification was approved by the Commissioner, Federal Supply Service, General Services Administration, for the use of all Federal agencies.

1. SCOPE AND CLASSIFICATION

1.1 Scope. This specification covers requirements for cotton wiping rags and cotton-synthetic blended wiping rags made from unused or reclaimed fabrics for use in the wiping of water, oil and grease from miscellaneous items (see 6.1).

1.2 Classification.

1.2.1 Class and grades. Wiping rags shall be of the following grades, as specified (see 6.2):

Grade A - 2.0 to 6.0 ounces.
Grade B - 2.0 to 12.0 ounces.

1.2.2 Colors. Wiping rags shall be furnished in the following colors as specified, and shall be applicable to the grades indicated (see 6.2 and 6.3):

White - Grade A and B.
Mixed colors - Grade B only.

2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

2.1 The following documents, of the issues in effect on date of invitation for bids or request for proposal, form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein:

Federal Specifications:

T-T-911 - Twine Jute.
QQ-S-781 - Steel Strapping, Flat.
QQ-S-790 - Steel Strapping, Round (Bare and Zinc-Coated).
PPP-B-636 - Box, Fiberboard.

Federal Standards:

Fed. Std. No. 191 - Textile Test Methods.
Fed. Std. No. 123 - Marking for Domestic Shipment (Civil agencies).

(Activities outside the Federal Government may obtain copies of Federal Specifications, Standards and Handbooks as outlined under General Information in the Index of Federal Specifications and Standards and at the prices indicated in the Index. The Index, which includes cumulative monthly supplements as issued, is for sale on a subscription basis by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

(Single copies of this specification and other Federal Specifications required by activities outside the Federal Government for bidding purposes are available without charge from the Business Service Centers at the General Services Administration Regional Offices in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Mo., Fort Worth, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle, Washington.

(Federal Government activities may obtain copies of Federal Specifications, Standards, and Handbooks and the Index of Federal Specifications and Standards from established distribution points in their agencies.)

Military Standards:

MIL-STD-105 - Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes.
MIL-STD-129 - Marking for Shipment and Storage.

(Copies of Military Specifications and Standards required by contractors in connection with specific procurement functions should be obtained from the procuring activity or as directed by the contracting officer.)

2.2 Other publications. The following documents form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the issue in effect on date of invitation for bids or request for proposal shall apply (see 6.5):

Department of Commerce Publication:

Commercial Standard CS 11-63 - Moisture Regain of Cotton Yarns.

(Application for copies should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, 25, D. C.)

National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc., Agent:

National Motor Freight Classification.

(Application for copies should be addressed to the American Trucking Associations, Inc., Tariff Order Section, 1616 P Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.)

Uniform Classification Committee, Agent:

Uniform Freight Classification.

(Application for copies should be addressed to the Uniform Classification Committee, Room 202 Union Station, 516 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60606.)

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Material. Wiping rags shall be of all cotton or cotton-synthetic blends and may consist of unused fabrics from either clean mill ends and mill remnants, or washed and sterilized reclaimed fabrics principally from household articles and garments which have not been previously used for wiping rag purposes. Cotton-synthetic blended rags shall contain not less than 35 percent cotton. Rags shall be soft and absorbent and of woven or knitted construction. Heavily napped fabrics, mesh fabrics constructed from hard twisted yarns, and starched or stiffened fabrics will not be acceptable. Rags made from United States flags, National flags or foreign countries or remnants thereof are strictly prohibited.

3.1.1 Defective characteristics. Fabrics submitted for use as wiping rags containing any of the following characteristics shall be considered defective:

- (a) Rags containing stains which cover more than one-tenth of the area of the rag.
- (b) Rags containing an aggregate of more than one square inch of hardened surface.
- (c) Rags containing dirt, dust, abrasives, or other clearly noticeable nonfibrous materials.
- (d) Rags made of mesh fabrics, such as lace, scrim, and netting except that mesh will be acceptable as a border if not more than one-inch in depth on an otherwise acceptable rag.
- (e) Rags badly worn or tendered as to be unsuited for the intended purpose (see 4.3.2.5).
- (f) Tattered parts less than 3 inches in width and more than 6 inches in length (see 6.4.2).
Edges frayed or raveled continuously or intermittently to a depth of over 2 inches.
- (g) Rags made on unopened sleeves, pants and drawers legs, and tubular fabrics.
- (h) Any rags made from United States flags, National flags or foreign countries or remnants thereof.
- (i) Rags containing buttons, hooks, eyes, pins, or any other metallic or plastic fittings.
- (j) Rags containing elastic yarns amounting to more than 5 percent of the area of the rag.
- (k) Grade A (only) - Rags made from fabrics of which the crotch, cuffs, cuff hems, hems, waistbands, pockets, reinforcements, collars, weltings, and pipings over 1/2 inch in width that have not been completely removed. However, hems in bed sheets and pillowcases 3 inches wide and under will be acceptable provided hems do not have any seam openings totaling more than 4 inches in length.
- (l) Rags containing less than 35 percent cotton.
- (m) Grade B (only) - Rags made from pants, overalls, jackets (any type), and coats weighing 7.0 ounces per square yard to 9.0 ounces per square yard, inclusive, or which the crotch, cuffs, cuff and hems, one inch in width and under, will be acceptable.
- (n) Grade B (only) - Rags, including those made from apparel items listed in (m) above, weighing over 9.0 ounces per square yard having pockets, reinforcements (including collar, cuffs, buttonhole and waistband reinforcements), welting and piping (such as used on slip covers, etc.), which have not been completely removed. Also, unopen hems over 1 inch wide and patches; however, tight patches not over 4 square inches in area will be acceptable.

3.2 Size and measurements. Wiping rags shall be smoothed and laid on a flat surface, and proper measurements shall be taken along the edges of the surface in the manner shown in figure 1, examples 1 and 2. Wiping rags shall not be measured as indicated in example 3.

3.2.1 Each wiping rag made from fabrics weighing less than 5.0 ounces per square yard shall have an area of not less than 288 square inches, and shall be not less than 9 inches wide and not more than 44 inches long, except that it may be not less than 6 inches wide for not more than 6 inches in length (see 6.4.2). Each wiping rag made of fabrics weighing more than 5.0 ounces per square yard shall have the area and measurements specified above for rags made of fabrics weighing less than 5.0 ounces per square yard, except that rags with an area of from 225 to 288 square inches will be acceptable when their minimum dimension is not less than 10 inches.

3.2.2 Figure. The figure is furnished for descriptive and information purposes and as a guide for taking proper measurements of the wiping rags (see 3.2 and table II, f). To the extent of any inconsistencies between the written specification and the figure, the specification shall govern.

3.3 Weight.

3.3.1 Grade A. The grade A wiping rags shall weigh not less than 2.0 or more than 6.0 ounces per square yard (see 4.3.2.6).

3.3.2 Grade B. The grade B wiping rags shall weigh not less than 2 ounces or more than 12 ounces per square yard. At least 35 percent of the net weight in each inspection lot shall consist of rags weighing not less than 2.0 ounces or more than 5.0 ounces per square yard when examined in accordance with 4.3.2.6.

3.4 Absorbency rate. All rags shall be considered absorbent when water and oil are absorbed into the fabric within 30 seconds when tested in accordance with 4.3.3.

3.5 Washing and sterilization. Rags from reclaimed fabrics shall be thoroughly washed, rinsed and sterilized. (This processing shall be done within the United States, its possessions or Puerto Rico) (see 6.2.1 (a), (6.9).

3.6 Moisture content. Rags shall have a moisture content no greater than 6.5 percent when tested in accordance with 4.3.3. Moisture content exceeding 10 percent shall be cause for rejection.

3.6.1 Where the reported moisture content for a lot exceeds 6.5 percent, but does not exceed 10 percent, payment adjustment in favor of the purchaser for the entire lot shall be made as follows:

Deduction = Total gross weight of shipment multiplied by percentage of excess moisture content multiplied by price per pound.

3.7 Put-up. Unless otherwise specified rags shall be put-up in compressed bales or boxes, as required, of 50 pounds gross weight. Packs shall be permitted a plus or minus tolerance of 3 pounds.

3.8 Tare. The allowable tare weight for bales (level A packaging) shall not exceed 3.0 percent of the average gross weight of bales taken for sampling, and 8.0 percent for fiberboard boxes (level B packaging). Any tare weight more than 3.0 and 8.0 percent respectively and up to 10.0 percent inclusive shall be deducted at the price per pound that is paid for the rags. Tare exceeding 10.0 percent of the gross weight shall be cause for rejection (see 4.3.2.8).

Deduction = Total weight of shipment multiplied by percentage of excess tare weight multiplied by price per pound of rags. Percentage of excess tare weight - percentage total tare weight minus the 3.0 and 8.0 percent allowable tare weight.

3.9 Certificates of compliance. A certificate of compliance is required from the supplier stating that rags delivered are not manufactured from United States Flags, National Flags of foreign countries or remnants thereof, and that no rags contain less than 35 percent cotton.

3.10 Workmanship. Rags shall conform to the quality and grade of product established by this specification. The occurrences of defects shall not exceed the applicable acceptable quality level (AQL).

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

4.1 Responsibility for inspection. Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the supplier is responsible for the performance of all inspection requirements as specified herein. Except as otherwise specified, the supplier may utilize his own or any other facilities suitable for the performance of the inspection requirements specified herein unless disapproved by the Government. The Government reserves the right to perform any of the inspections set forth in the specifications where such inspections are deemed necessary to assure that supplies and services conform to prescribed requirements.

4.1.1 Certificate of compliance. Where certificates of compliance are submitted, the Government reserves the right to check test such items to determine the validity of the certification.

4.2 Inspection for acceptance. Sampling for inspection shall be in accordance with MIL-STD-105, except where otherwise indicated.

4.3 Inspection.

4.3.1 Component and material inspection. In accordance with 4.1, components and materials shall be tested in accordance with all the requirements of referenced specifications, drawings, and standards unless otherwise excluded, amended, modified, or qualified in this specification or applicable purchase documents.

4.3.2 Inspection of end item.

4.3.2.1 Examination of bales for quantity verification (weight). From each inspection lot, a sample of bales or boxes shall be selected in accordance with table I, for weighing, to verify the gross weight of each bale or box. Each of the sample bales or boxes shall be weighed separately for comparison with the supplier's marking. After the required number of bales or boxes have been weighed, the averages of the marked and actual gross weights will be compared. If the verified gross weight is equal to or more than that claimed by the supplier, the supplier's claimed weights shall be multiplied by the number of bales or boxes to arrive at the total gross weight of the lot. If the verified gross weight is less than that claimed by the supplier, the verified weights shall be used as the basis for determining the total gross weight of the lot.

NOTE: Test for moisture content, 4.3.3.2, shall be determined at the same time the bale or box weight verification is conducted, and the necessary steps for acceptance or rejection shall apply.

TABLE I

Number of bales or boxes in inspection lot	Number of bales or boxes to be weighed
2 to 15	2
16 to 40	3
41 to 65	5
66 to 110	7
111 to 180	10
181 to 300	15
301 to 500	25
501 to 800	35
801 and over	50

4.3.2.2 Inspection lot. For the purpose of sampling, a lot shall consist of not more than one grade and color offered for delivery at one time.

4.3.2.2.1 Examination for visual and dimensional characteristics. Examination of the wiping rags shall be in accordance with the classification of defects and acceptable quality levels (AQL's) set forth in 4.3.2.3. The sample unit for this examination shall be one wiping rag. The lot size shall be expressed in theoretical individual rags computed as follows:

Number of rags (theoretical). Number of pounds in lot multiplied by 5.
No more than 50 rags shall be selected per bale or box in the sample.

TABLE II. Examination for visual and dimensional characteristics

Characteristics	Defects	Classification	
		Major	Minor
Grades A and B	a. Not cotton or cotton-synthetic blend fabric.	X	
	b. Dirt, dust and abrasive material	X	

TABLE II. Examination for visual and dimensional characteristics (con.)

Characteristics	Defects	Classification	
		Major	Minor
	c. Rags containing elastic yarns amounting to more than 5 percent of the area of the rag.		X
	d. Objectionable odor.		X
	e. Rags not white (see 6.3.1) when specified in contract or order.		X
	f. Not of specified dimensions (see 3.2 and figure 1).	X	
	g. Rags made from United States flags, National flags of foreign countries, or remnants thereof (see 3.1).	X	
	NOTE: Two or more of these defects (g.) shall cause the entire lot to be rejected (see 3.9).		
	h. An aggregate of more than one square inch of hardened surface.	X	
	i. Rags weighing less than or more than amount specified (see 3.3 and 4.3.2.6).	X	
	j. Foreign objects of dangerous materials; such as nails, tacks, needles, pins, glass, sharp edged metal items, etc.	X	
	k. More than two pieces sewn together to make one rag.		X
	l. Rags made of mesh fabrics, such as laces, scrim, and netting, except that mesh will be acceptable as a border not more than 1 inch depth on an otherwise acceptable rag.	X	
	m. Rags made from starched or stiffened fabrics.	X	
	n. Rags made from heavy napped fabrics and fabrics woven with hand twisted yarn.	X	
	o. Stains which cover more than one-tenth of the area of the rag.	X	
	p. Badly worn or tendered as to be unsuited for the intended purpose.	X	
	q. Tattered parts less than 3 inches wide and more than 6 inches long.		X

TABLE II. Examination for visual and dimensional characteristics (con.)

Characteristics	Defects	Classification	
		Major	Minor
Grade A (only)	r. Edge frayed or raveled continuously or intermittently to a depth of over two inches.		X
	s. Unopened sleeves, pants, and drawers legs, and tubular fabrics.		X
	t. Buttons, hooks, eyes or any other metallic or plastic fittings (one or more).		X
	u. Rags that have not been thoroughly washed, rinsed, and sterilized.	X	
	v. Rags containing fiber content labels that declare less than 35 percent cotton.	X	
	a. Rags or patches thereto that are other than white.	X	
	b. Rags made from bed sheets and pillow cases:		
	1. Containing hems more than 3 inches wide.	X	
	2. Open seams along the hems totaling more than 4 inches in length.		X
	c. Rags, except "b" above, containing crotches, cuffs, cuff hems, hems, waistbands, pockets, collars, reinforcements, weltings, and pipings over 1/2 inch in width.	X	
Grade B (only)	a. Rags from pants, overalls, coveralls, jackets, and coats 7.0 to 9.0 ounces inclusive, containing crotches, cuffs, cuff hems, hems, pockets, and waistbands over 1 inch in width.	X	
	b. Rags, including those from items in "a" above, over 9.0 ounces containing pockets, reinforcements, welting, and piping. Unopen hems over 1 inch, and patches 4 square inches and under	X	
	NOTE: Defect "a" Grades "A and B": It is to be noted that rags containing any amount of linen (flax fiber) are acceptable.		

4.3.2.3 Acceptable quality levels (AQL's) and inspection levels. The AQL expressed in defects per hundred units (DHU) and inspection level in accordance with MIL-STD-105 shall be as follows:

Inspection level	AQL	
	Major	Total
II	2.5 ¹	6.5

¹ In the event two or more major defects are scored for defect "g" and "u" listed in table II, the entire lot shall be rejected.

4.3.2.4 Examination for determining lightweight rags (2.0 to 5.0 ozs.). Examination shall be applicable to all wiping rags, except grade A, for determining percent of wiping rags between 2.0 and 5.0 ounces per square yard in each inspection lot. Examination shall be made of each wiping rag in the sample to determine conformance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3 of this specification. This determination shall be computed as follows:

The total weight of the wiping rags in the sample shall be determined. All fabrics between 2.0 and 5.0 ounces per square yard shall be segregated and weighed. The total weight of the rags between 2.0 and 5.0 ounces shall be divided by the total weight of all the wiping rags in the sample to arrive at the percentage of 2.0 to 5.0 ounces fabric in the lot. If the percentage of fabric between 2.0 and 5.0 ounces is less than 35 percent (by weight) of the sample, the lot shall be rejected.

4.3.2.5 Examination for tenderness. Wiping rags which are in question as to tenderness (see 3.1.1 (e)) shall be examined in the following manner:

The rag shall be grasped on opposite edges so that it remains fully opened and flat. There shall be approximately 3 inches of material gathered in each hand. With the arms extended, the rag shall be subjected to a steady outward force. If the rag pulls apart, it shall be considered tender.

4.3.2.6 Examination for weight per square yard. In case of dispute or indecision as to weight of rags (see 3.3), weight shall be determined in accordance with applicable method specified in 4.3.2.4. To allow for some error of measurement in determining the weight per square yard of fabrics, a tolerance of plus or minus 10 percent will be acceptable.

TABLE III.

Wiping rag size - 12 by 24 inches or 288 square inches (2 square feet)	
Fabric	Weight
2-ounce material	0.4 ounces
6-ounce material	1.3 ounces
12-ounce material	2.6 ounces

4.3.2.7 Examination of preparation for delivery. The following examination of packaging and marking requirements of section 5 of this specification shall be in accordance with an acceptable quality level (AQL) of 4.0 defects per hundred units, and inspection level S-2 of MIL-STD-105. The unit of product for this examination shall be one completely packed and marked bale or box. The lot size for the purpose of determining the sample size shall be expressed in units of bales or boxes of rags.

Examine	Defect
Material	- Not clean and serviceable. - Not closely woven burlap. - Coverings containing holes or marking other than required. - Wire strapping or ties not proper gage or flat steel strapping not 3/8 by 0.020 inch, as applicable. - Twine used for sewing, not three ply jute twine as specified. - Tags, lacquer, stencil ink or other component not in compliance with MIL-STD-129 or Fed. Std. No. 123. - Nonwoven cloth less than 0.030 inch in thickness.

Examine	Defects
Workmanship	a. Tags or labels, as applicable, not suitably coated with transparent water-proof lacquer or other acceptable coating. b. Rags not compressed to prescribed density, as applicable. c. Less than 3 inch overlap of covering on sides and ends of bale. d. Less than 3 wire ties equally spaced between the head or ends of the 50 (+ 3) pound bales. e. Less than 4 wire ties equally spaced between the heads or ends of 90 to 110-pound bales, where applicable. f. Inadequate application of components; such as incomplete closure of container flaps, loose or inadequate sealing, strapping or stapling. Bulged, broken or distorted container. g. Heads or ends loosely sewn. h. Covering torn or damaged in any manner which may affect serviceability. i. Wire ties for closing ends of covering not in conformance with finished dimensions, as applicable.
Marking (tags)	Omitted, incomplete, incorrect, illegible; of improper sequence or method of application.

4.3.2.8 Examination of tare weight. The average tare weight of the bales or boxes taken for sampling, table V, multiplied by the number of bales or boxes in the lot will equal total tare weight. Total gross weight divided into total tare weight equals percentage of tare weight. If the total tare weight of the bales or boxes exceeds the maximum tare specified in 3.8 the lot shall be rejected. Determination of deduction for excess tare weight shall be in accordance with 3.8.

4.3.3 Testing of the end item. The wiping rags shall be tested for applicable characteristics as indicated in table IV, herein, from each lot presented for inspection. Tests shall be in accordance with AQL's and inspection level of MIL-STD-105 as indicated in table IV, herein, and test methods in Fed. Std. No. 191 whenever applicable.

TABLE IV. Tests					
Characteristics	Requirement paragraph	Sample unit (rag)	Test method	Inspection level	AQL (percent defective)
Absorbency rate:					
Oil	3.4	$\frac{1}{1}$	4.3.3.1	S-3	6.5
Water	3.4	$\frac{1}{1}$	4.3.3.1	S-3	6.5
Moisture content	3.6	$\frac{1}{8}$	4.3.3.2	4.3.3.2	4.3.3.2

1/ Samples for determination of this absorbency test shall be selected from the same bales or boxes from which the sample size for determination of moisture content have been drawn in accordance with table V, herein.

4.3.3.1 Test for absorbency. The sample rag shall be laid on a non-absorbent flat surface. One drop of water and one drop of light machine oil, each 0.04 milliliter in volume shall be applied separately to the applicable sample rags through a capillary by allowing the drops to fall freely onto the rag from a height of 1/2 to 2 inches. After a time interval of 30 seconds, the sample shall be examined and the absorption or non-absorption of the water and oil reported. The rag is considered non-absorbent if the water or oil is not absorbed but remains wholly or partly above the surface of the rag. The sample unit shall be one wiping rag. The lot size shall be expressed in the number of individual rags as computed in 4.3.2.2.1.

4.3.3.1.1 In testing for water absorbency it is to be noted that in the event of failure to pass the test, the sample unit shall be tested for absorbency and so selected to divide the area of the rag in four divisions. The sample unit will be considered to have failed if all four tests fail to meet the water absorption rate required.

4.3.3.2 Test for moisture content. The samples selected in accordance with 4.3.3.2.1 and table V, shall be individually identified and each sample unit of eight rags tested as a unit. Each sample shall be accurately weighed and then dried in an oven at 221° to 230°F. (105° to 110°C.), until the weights from two consecutive weighings, taken not less than 10 minutes apart, differ by not more than 0.1 percent of the first of the two weights. The moisture content is the difference between the weight of the rags as samples (Wo) and their dry weight (Wd), expressed as a percentage of the original (sampled) weight.

$$\text{Moisture Content (percent)} = \frac{Wo - Wd}{Wo} \text{ by } 100$$

The average of the moisture content of the individual sample unit shall be considered the moisture content of the entire lot represented by the sample. If the average moisture content of any individual sample unit exceeds 10 percent, the entire lot shall be rejected.

4.3.3.2.1 Sampling for determination of moisture content. From each lot offered for inspection sample bales or boxes shall be selected at random in accordance with table V. The sample unit shall be eight rags randomly drawn from each pack for sampling. The following number of rags and location within the pack from which they shall be drawn are as follows:

One from the top; one from the bottom; one from each of the remaining four sides; and two from the middle center. If determination of moisture content cannot be made immediately upon drawing of sample, each sample unit shall be placed separately into air-tight containers and sealed, immediately after drawing of sample, for future moisture determination.

TABLE V.

Lot size number of bales or boxes	Sample size, No. of bales or boxes to be tested
1 to 25	2
26 to 150	3
151 to 1,200	5
1,201 to 3,200	8

4.3.3.3 Fiber content. A certificate of compliance shall be submitted by the supplier stating that no individual rag contains less than 35 percent cotton.

5. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

5.1 Packing. Packing shall be level A, B, or C, (see 6.2).

5.1.1 Level A. Wiping rags, of one grade only, shall be furnished in compressed bales in the weights specified in 3.7 (see 6.2). The bales shall be compressed to a density of not more than 3-1/2 cubic feet per 50 pounds. The compressed bales shall be covered with either clean, serviceable burlap material, waterproof reinforced laminated flexible barrier material, or non-woven cloth. The burlap material shall be new or reclaimed closely woven material free from holes and markings. The reinforced laminated flexible barrier shall have a minimum Mullen Test of 200 pounds. The non-woven cloth shall be mildew proof with a minimum thickness of 0.030 inches and have a minimum tensile strength of 90 pounds, a tear strength of 45 pounds and a wet strength of 45 pounds. The covering material shall be of a size that it will fully cover the bales with a minimum 3 inch overlap on the sides and ends of the bales, or burlap tubing that fully covers the bale may be used. Each bale shall be secured with either round or flat steel strapping or non-metallic strapping. The round wire strapping shall conform to QQ-S-790, class B, finish 2, 16 gage. Flat steel strapping shall conform to QQ-S-781, type I, class B, grade 2, size 3/8 by 0.020 inch. Non-metallic strapping shall conform to PPP-S-760, type II, or type III minimum size 3/8 by 0.020 inch. Three round wire ties or three flat steel or non-metallic straps shall be equally spaced between the heads (ends) of the 50 pound bales. If 90 or 110 pound bales are specified, then 4 ties or straps shall be provided and equally spaced between the heads of the bales. The overlap baling material at the heads or ends of the bale shall be sewn together with a 3-ply jute twine conforming to T-T-911, type I, size no. 2; or secured with a minimum of 2 steel clips or hog rings spaced at proper intervals along the ends of the bales. At the option of the supplier the round wire ties or strapping may be applied either on the outside or underneath the baling material; the baling material must be securely sealed. When burlap tubing is used over the wire ties for strapped bales, the ends of the tubing shall be closed with 15-gage soft wire or steel wire ties. The wire ties shall be not less than 6-inches long with a 1/2-inch diameter formed eye at each end.

5.1.2 Level B. Unless otherwise specified wiping rags, of one grade only shall be compressed and inserted or inserted and compressed in a fiberboard box conforming to PPP-B-636, class domestic, grade 350. Closure shall be in accordance with the appendix to PPP-B-636. (See 6.2.)

5.1.3 Level C. Wiping rags shall be packed so as to assure carrier acceptance and safe delivery to destination at the lowest ratings, in containers complying with the Uniform Freight Classification Rules or the National Motor Freight Classification Rules.

5.2 Marking. In addition to any special marking required by the procurement documents, the bales or containers shall be marked in accordance with Federal Standard No. 123 or MIL-STD-129 as applicable.

6. NOTES

6.1 Intended use. Rags are primarily used in the wiping away of water; wiping of oil and grease from machinery, and for miscellaneous cleaning.

6.2 Ordering data. Purchasers should select the preferred options permitted herein and include the following information in procurement documents:

(a) Title, number and date of this specification.

(b) Grade required (see 1.2.1).

NOTE: It is suggested that white rags, grade A and B be ordered only where better quality rags are required.

(c) Color required (see 1.2.2).

(d) Level of packing required (see 5.1).

(e) Whether wiping rags shall be furnished in fiberboard boxes, or in bales as described in 5.1.1 (see 5.1.2).

6.2.1 Purchasers should specify the following contractual requirements:

(a) That a certified copy of any affidavit, by a responsible officer of the contractor's organization, be submitted with each shipment to the effect that all reclaimed rags furnished have been washed, rinsed, sterilized and dried within the United States, its possessions or Puerto Rico (see 3.5). For the purposes of this specification the term sterilized implies that the rags have been submitted to temperatures of not less than 180°F. during washing cycles and 250°F. during heat drying (exhaust air 175°F.).

6.3 Interpretation.

6.3.1 White. The word "white" as contained in 1.2.2 shall be interpreted to mean the following type rags: unbleached (gray) rags that were in the gray state and have been partially bleached or fully bleached, and colored rags which have had the dye color completely removed (known as stripped rags) except that evidence of a dye color on seams of stripped rags will be acceptable. Ornamental colored trimmings are acceptable, provided they are not over 5 percent of the area of the rag.

6.3.2 Mixed colors. The words "mixed colors" as used in 1.2.2 is intended to include rags of any color, including "white" rags as acceptable.

6.4 Definitions.

6.4.1 Size and measurements. The width and length dimensions as specified in 3.2 are defined as follows:

The minimum width of a rag shall be the measurement between the two closest opposing points on the perimeter of a rag. The maximum length of a rag shall be the distance between the most distant points along the edges of a rag. When rags are nearly rectangular, the longer side shall be considered the "length" (see figure 1).

6.4.2 Tatter. A tatter is a fabric part protruding from the body of the fabric.

6.4.3 Tubular fabric. A tubular fabric is a woven or knitted fabric which is seamless, such as pillow tubing or circular knitted fabric.

6.5 Commercial Standard SC 11-63. The purpose of referencing this Commercial Standard is to inform processors, distributors, and users of definitions, methods of test and terminology therein which are applicable to this specification.

6.6 Basis of purchase. Wiping rags shall be purchased by gross weight, in accordance with requirements of 3.6 and 3.8 and determinations in 4.3.3.2 and 4.3.2.8.

6.7 Items procured under this specification for military use are to be limited to the variety shown on the applicable military standards. Personnel of the military departments are requested to refer to these documents for guidance.

6.8 Class 1, unused fabrics, as previously cited, has been deleted and will not be required or cited for procurement.

6.9 In the process of rinsing rags, 3.5, it is permissible to use a wetting-out agent to increase the absorbency of rags provided that rags meet all requirements of this specification, and are nontoxic.

MILITARY CUSTODIANS:

Army - GI
Navy - SA
Air Force - 69

Review Activity:

Navy - SA

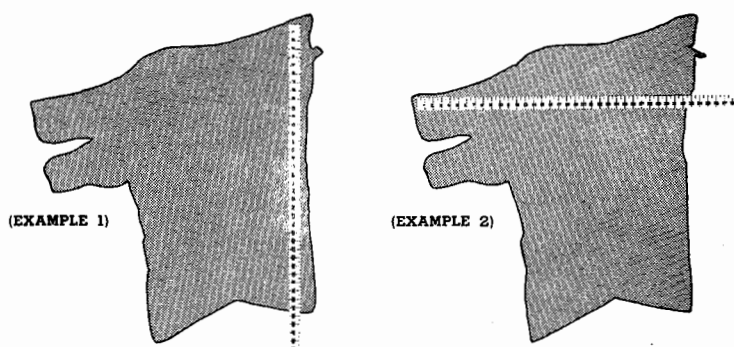
User Activities:

Army - GL
Navy - MC, CG

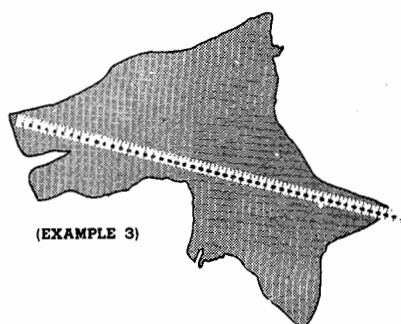
CIVIL AGENCY INTEREST:

GSA - FSS
TVA
PO
JUS
AEC
COM
TR

DOD coordination has been waived.



ACCEPTABLE METHOD FOR MEASURING WIPING RAGS



UNACCEPTABLE METHOD FOR MEASURING WIPING RAGS

FIGURE 1. Rag, wiping, cotton.