

MARKING GUIDE

GSA contracting laws require contracting officers to include the clause at 552.211-73, Marking, in solicitations and contracts for supplies when deliveries may be made to both civilian and military activities and the contract amount is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold. The clause states:

552.211-73 MARKING (FEB 1996) 511.204(b) (1)

(a) General requirements. Interior packages, if any, and exterior shipping containers shall be marked as specified elsewhere in the contract. Additional marking requirements may be specified on delivery orders issued under the contract. If not otherwise specified, interior packages and exterior shipping containers shall be marked in accordance with the following standards.

(1) Deliveries to civilian activities. Supplies shall be marked in accordance with Federal Standard 123, edition in effect on the date of issuance of the solicitation.

(2) Deliveries to military activities. Supplies shall be marked in accordance with Military Standard 129, edition in effect on the date of issuance of the solicitation.

(b) Improperly marked material. When Government inspection and acceptance are at destination, and delivered supplies are not marked in accordance with contract requirements, the Government has the right, without prior notice to the Contractor to perform the required marking, by contract or otherwise, and charge the Contractor, therefore at the rate specified elsewhere in this contract. This right is not exclusive, and is in addition to other rights or remedies provided for in this contract.

Federal Standard 123, Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies) is now in revision H. Military Standard 129, Military Standard Marking for Shipment and Storage, is now in revision R. Both documents establish the requirements for marking unit, intermediate, and exterior (transport/shipping) packages, and unit loads.

These standards require suppliers to correctly mark shipments of supplies at all levels of packaging – including the unit pack, carton, case and pallet. Marking include the application of numbers, letters, labels, tags, symbols, or colors to provide identification and to expedite handling during shipment and storage.

The following are some illustrations of how marking should be when contractors ship to both civilian and military agencies:

Marking per FED-STD-123

Marking for Shipment to civil agencies, per FED-STD-123, shall be as shown below in the figures:

- Marking shall be clear, legible, permanent, and in English.
- Marking shall be located at least on one side or face of the package. The preferred side or face is the end panel, but any of the four faces of a carton may each display the complete marking requirements.
- marking shall be orientated in a palletized load so that it is visible to the handler
- Transport packages and unit loads shall not be marked on the top or bottom of the carton.
- Material regulated by Federal law or regulation shall be marked in accordance with those requirements.
- Labels and tags shall be securely attached to the item or package when the surface will not support the necessary marking.
- The marking order sequence shown is preferred, but not mandatory.
- Each palletized or unitized load shall have two labels affixed on adjacent sides of the load (Para. 4.1.3).
- Transport Packages when consolidated into Unit Loads Moving in full Truckload or Carload Shipments containing one NSN shall be marked as a transport package except that consignor and consignee marking is not required on either transport packages or unit loads (Para.4.1.4).
- The shipping label with the consignor and consignee information shall be located on two unit loads closest to the door of the truck or carload shipment (Para.4.1.4)
- Special Marking requirements such as TCN is described in Paragraph 4.3
- Pictorial marking is described in Paragraph 4.4
- Barcode marking specifications is described in paragraph 4.5

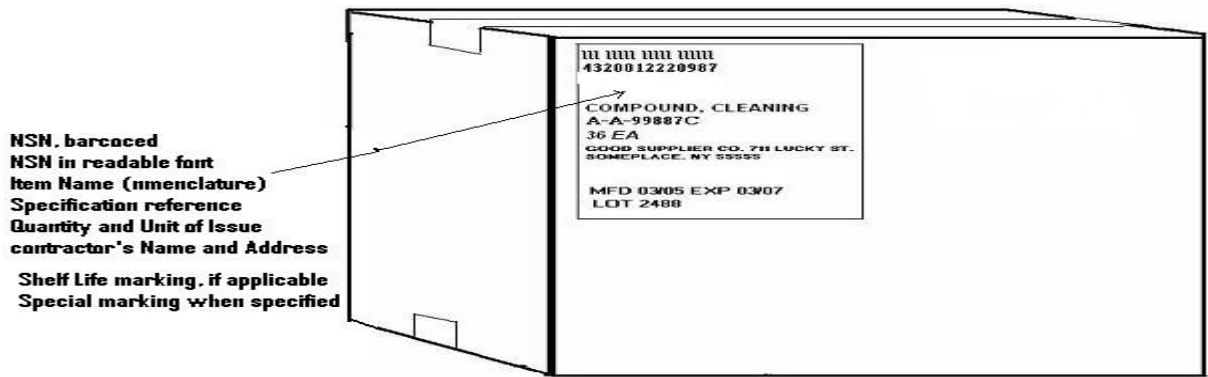


Figure 1: Unit and Intermediate marking per Fed-Std-123

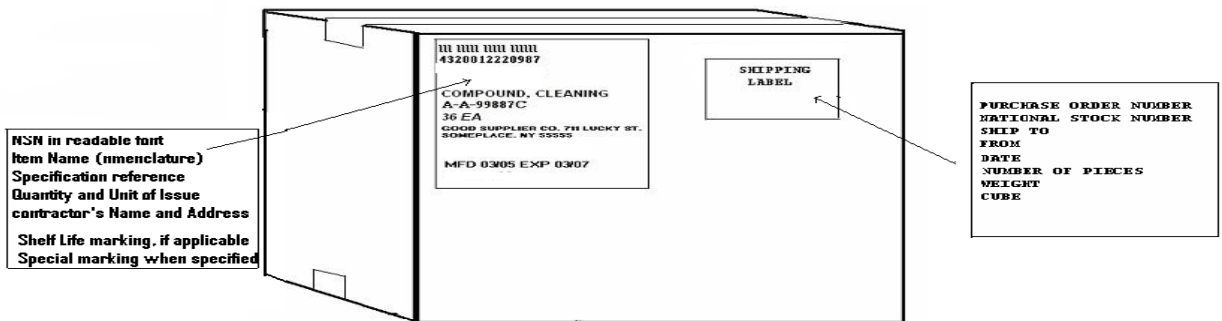


Figure 2: Transport package marking per Fed-Std-123

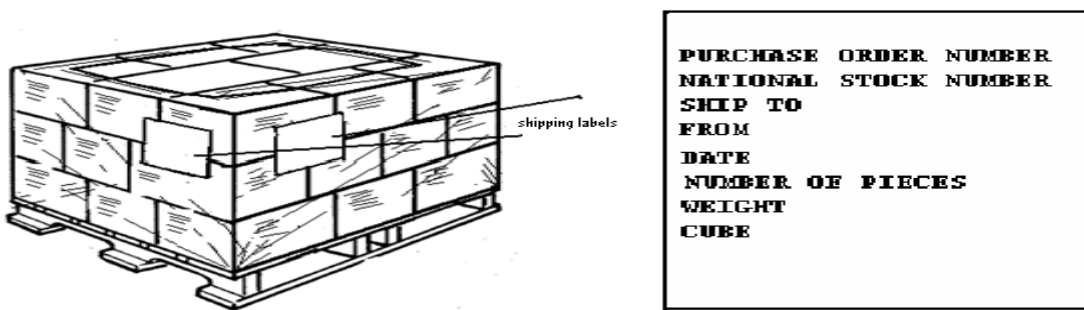


Figure 3: Palletized loads shall have two adjacent shipping labels showing the information above

Marking per MIL-STD-129
UNIT & INTERMEDIATE
PACK
With Linear (Code 39) Bar Codes

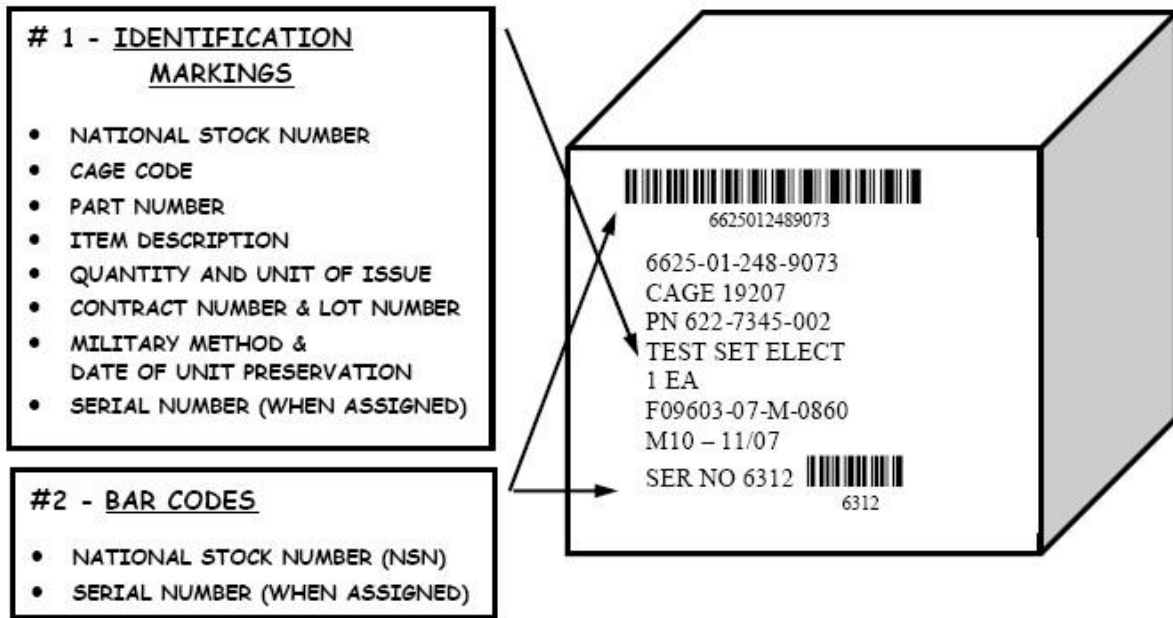
General marking requirements for unit and intermediate packs are divided into two categories:

- # 1 – identification markings are in paragraph 5.1.1
- # 2 – bar code markings are in paragraph 5.4.1.1

Placement of the identification markings is described in paragraph 5.3.1. When a barrier bag is used within another unit container, both the bag and the outermost container must be marked.

Placement of the bar code markings is described in paragraph 5.4.4.

Unit containers used as shipping containers should be marked as an exterior container (paragraph 5.1.1).



Marking per MIL-STD-129

**UNIT & INTERMEDIATE
PACK**

With 2D (PDF417) Symbol and Unique Item Identifiers

General marking requirements for unit and intermediate packs are divided into two categories:

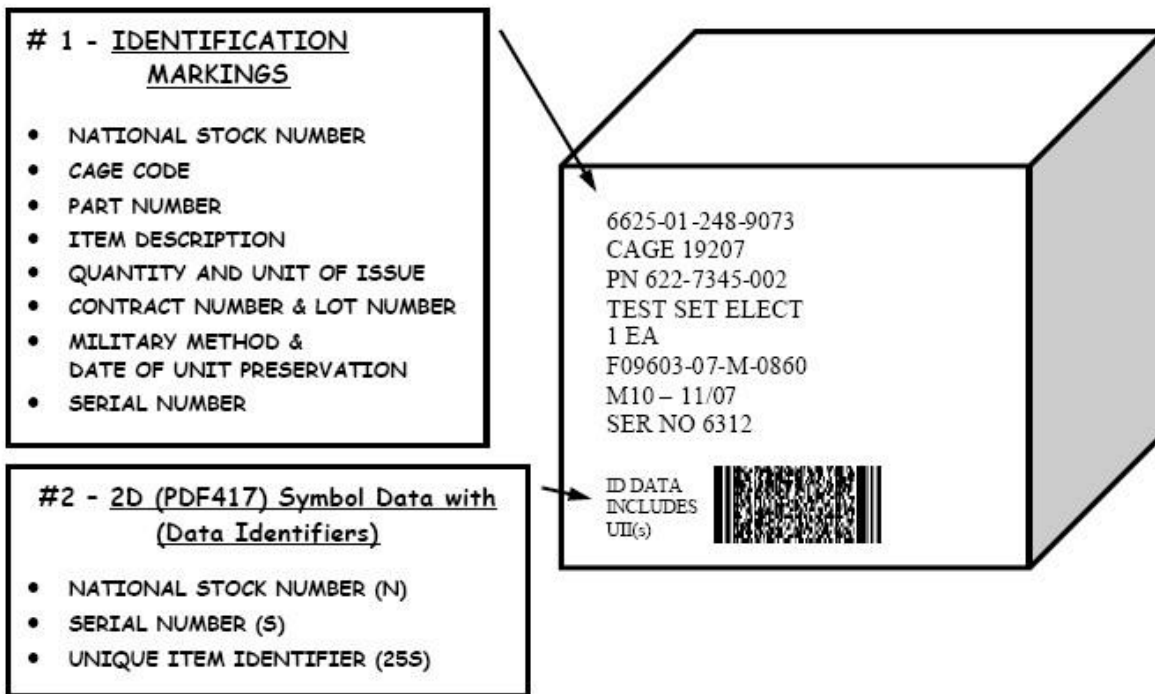
1 – identification markings are in paragraph 5.1.1

2 – bar code markings are in paragraph 5.4.1.1

Placement of the identification markings is described in paragraph 5.3.1. When a barrier bag is used within another unit container, both the bag and the outermost container must be marked.

Placement of the bar code markings is described in paragraph 5.4.4.

Unit containers used as shipping containers should be marked as an exterior container (paragraph 5.1.1).



Marking per MIL-STD-129
EXTERIOR (SHIPPING) CONTAINERS
With Linear (Code 39) Bar Codes

General marking requirements for exterior containers are divided into three categories:

1 - identification markings are in paragraph 5.1.2

2 - bar code markings are in paragraph 5.4

3 - address markings are in paragraph 5.2

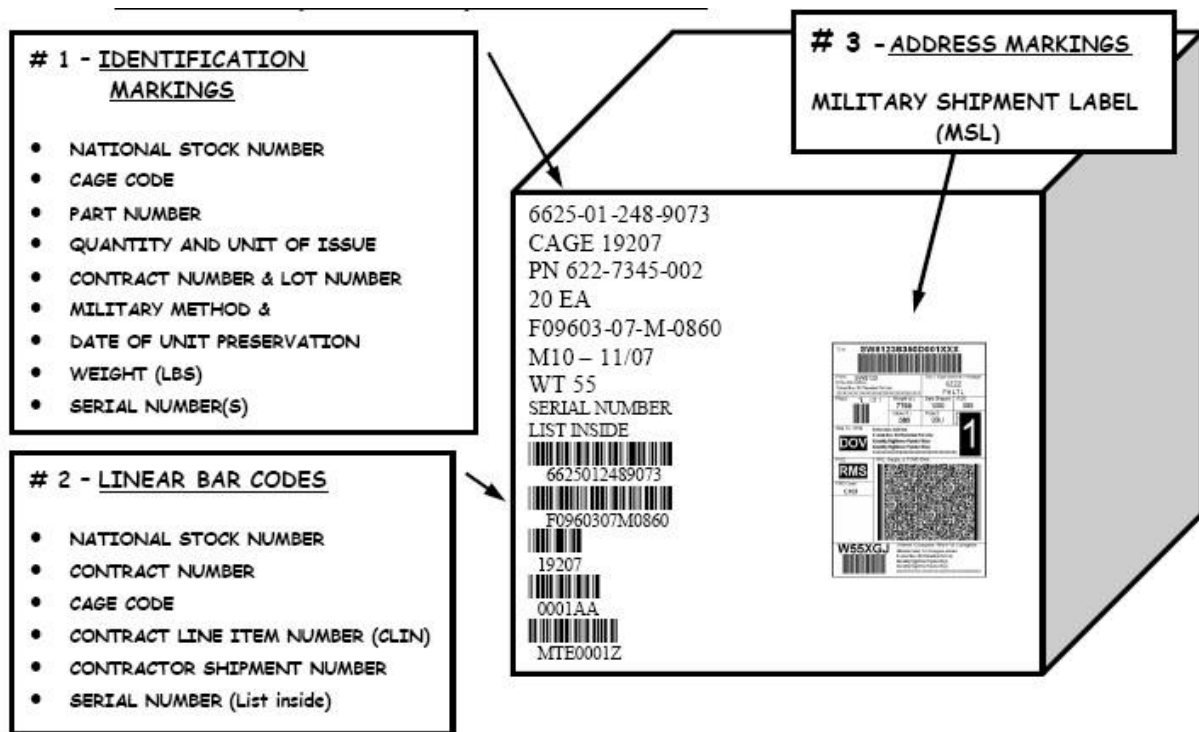
Placement of the identification markings is described in paragraph 5.3.2. Boxes and crates over ten cubic feet require the identification data markings repeated on the left end (paragraph 5.3.2.1).

Placement of the bar code markings is described in paragraph 5.4.5.

Acceptable bar code formats are illustrated in figure 1 (page 23) and figure 19 (page 58).

Clothing and textile items require additional markings: shipment number and container number (paragraph 5.1.2.f(3)).

Hazardous materials markings are detailed in paragraph 5.13. Ammunition and explosive markings are detailed in paragraph 5.14.



Marking per MIL-STD-129
EXTERIOR (SHIPPING) CONTAINERS
With 2D (PDF417) Symbol and Unique Item Identifiers

General marking requirements for exterior containers are divided into three categories:

1 - identification markings are in paragraph 5.1.2

2 - bar code markings are in paragraph 5.4.

3 - address markings are in paragraph 5.2

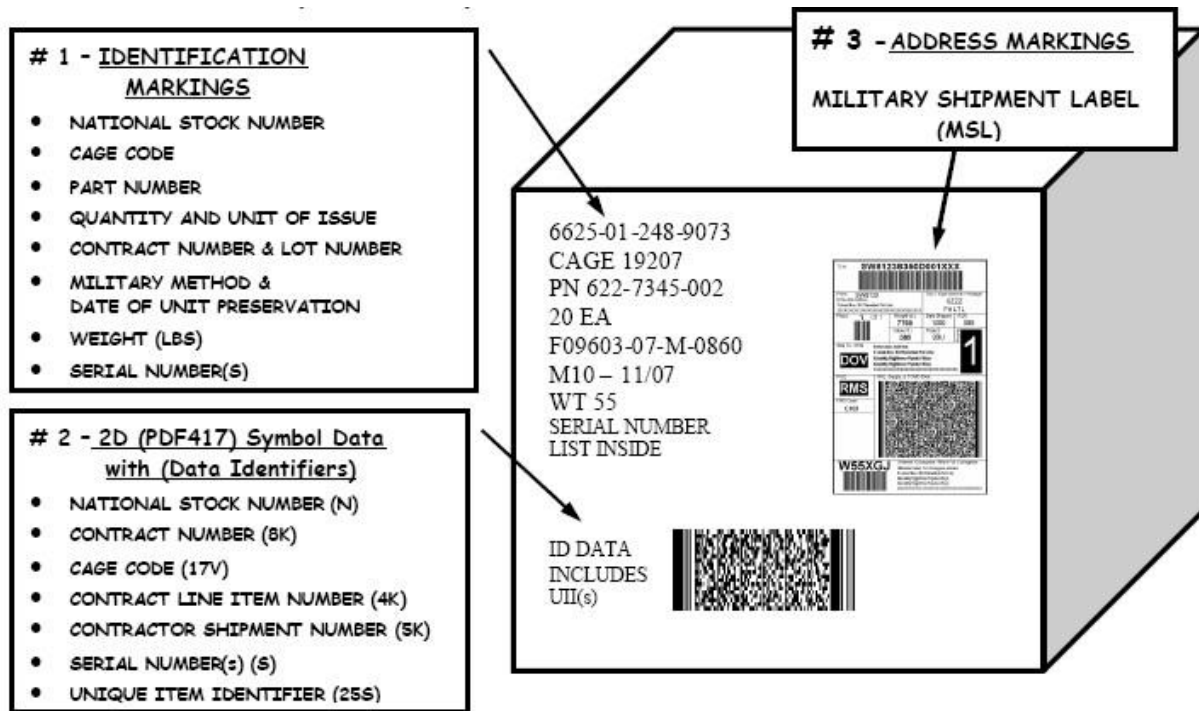
Placement of the identification markings is described in paragraph 5.3.2. Boxes and crates over ten cubic feet require the identification data markings repeated on the left end (paragraph 5.3.2.1).

Placement of the bar code markings is described in paragraph 5.4.3 .

Acceptable bar code formats are illustrated in figure 1 (page 23) and figure 20 (page 59).

Clothing and textile items require additional markings: shipment number and container number (paragraph 5.1.2.f.(3)).



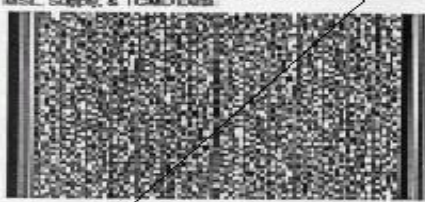

Hazardous materials markings are detailed in paragraph 5.13 . Ammunition and explosive markings are detailed in paragraph 5.14.



MILITARY SHIPMENT LABEL

Address Markings on Shipping Containers and Pallet Loads

- Unless specifically exempted in the contract, all shippers will apply address markings using a bar coded Military Shipping Label (MSL). This includes shipments to domestic and overseas destinations.
- The Transportation Control Number, Ultimate Consignee Address Code (DODAAC), and Piece Number must be bar coded in code 39 linear bar code format.
- The MSL will also include a two-dimensional (2D PDF417) symbol that will contain shipment, line item and TCMD data.
 - a. Shipment data consists of information entered in-the-clear on the MSL
 - b. Line item data generally consists of the Document/Requisition Number, NSN, Routing Identifier Code (RIC), Unit of Issue, Quantity, Condition Code and Unit Price.
 - c. TCMD data is applicable to shipments that move through the Defense Transportation System and has priority over data.
- The recommended size for the MSL is 4 inches by 6 inches.
- The in-the-clear data and code 39 HRI shall be easily human readable. The code 39 bar codes and the 2D (PDF417) bar code symbol shall be easily machine readable (paragraph 5.2.2.3.).

TCN SW81238350D001XXX			
From SW5123 In-the-clear Address 3 Lines Max, 35 Characters Per Line 30000000110000000000000000000000		TAC 7 Type Service # Postage FBWR Frt LTL	
Piece 1 OF 1	Weight (lb.) 7760	Basic Shipped 1098	999
	Cube-Feet 365	Freight 98U	Priority 1
Ship To POE DOV	In-the-clear Address 3 Lines Max, 35 Characters Per Line Alcohol High/Medium/Paper/Weight Alcohol High/Medium/Paper/Weight 30000000110000000000000000000000		
POB RMS	MSL, Supp. & TCMD Data		
FMS Class CKM			
CCA Data ABD77ZR			
Dest: 300135			
CD: Spur:			
W55XGJ	Ultimate Consignee / Mark For Consignee Ultimate / Mark For Consignee Address 3 Lines Max, 35 Characters Per Line Alcohol High/Medium/Paper/Weight Alcohol High/Medium/Paper/Weight 30000000110000000000000000000000		
			

Required Bar Coding

In Code 39 (Linear)

*TCN

*Piece Number

*Ultimate Consignee DODAAC

In PDF417 (2D)

*Shipment

*Line Item

*TCMD Data