

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2020-0030]

**Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Ninth Edition, Revision of June 2020**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) issued a revision of the ninth edition of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), published in June 2020, to provide updated information on patent examination policy and procedure (June 2020 revision). The MPEP provides patent examiners and the public with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications and other proceedings before the USPTO. The MPEP contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material on the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures that examiners are required or authorized to follow in the normal examination of patent applications and during other Office proceedings.

**ADDRESSES:** The USPTO prefers that suggestions for improving the form and content of the MPEP be submitted via email to [mpepfeedback@uspto.gov](mailto:mpepfeedback@uspto.gov) or via the IdeaScale® tool available at <https://uspto-mpep.ideascale.com/a/index>. Written comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Editor, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert A. Clarke, Editor of the MPEP, by email at [Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov](mailto:Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov), or by telephone at 571-272-7735; or James Lisehora, Patent Examination Policy Advisor, by email at [James.Lisehora@uspto.gov](mailto:James.Lisehora@uspto.gov), or by telephone at 571-272-8180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USPTO issued a revision to the ninth edition of the MPEP, published in June 2020, which provides USPTO patent examiners, applicants, attorneys, agents, representatives of applicants, and other members of the public with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications before the USPTO. The MPEP contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material on the nature of information and

interpretation, and outlines the current procedures that examiners are required or authorized to follow in the normal examination of patent applications and during other Office proceedings. Although the MPEP does not have the force of law or the force of the rules in 37 CFR, it “is well known to those registered to practice in the [US]PTO and reflects the presumptions under which the [US]PTO operates.” *Critikon, Inc. v. Becton Dickinson Vascular Access, Inc.*, 120 F.3d 1253, 1257 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

In the June 2020 publication of the MPEP revision, sections of chapters 100–1000, 1200–1500, and 1700–2800 have been updated. The updated sections have a revision indicator of [R-10.2019], meaning these sections have been updated to reflect USPTO patent practice and relevant case law as of October 31, 2019. In addition, Chapter FPC—Form Paragraphs Consolidated, the Foreword, Introduction, Subject Matter Index, and all appendices except Appendix I and Appendix P have been updated. The changes in the June 2020 publication are discussed in the Change Summary for the Ninth Edition, Revision 10.2019. The Change Summary is available in three renditions at <https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html>. Citation to a section in the current revision of the MPEP should be to “e9 r10.2019,” e.g., MPEP 2163 (e9 r10.2019).

The June 2020 publication of the revision of the ninth edition of the MPEP may be viewed or downloaded free of charge from the USPTO website at <https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/> and is available to search online at <https://mpep.uspto.gov>. Archived copies of each of the prior revisions and editions of the MPEP continue to be available for reference on the USPTO website at <https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/old/index.htm>.

Dated: July 2, 2020.

**Andrei Iancu,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2020-14931 Filed 7-9-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

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**COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED**

**Procurement List; Proposed Additions**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee is proposing to add products to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before: August 9, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1401 S Clark Street, Suite 715, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4149.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information or to submit comments contact: Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 603-2117, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or email [CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov](mailto:CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

**Additions**

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice will be required to procure the products listed below the nonprofit identified.

The following products are proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

*Products*

- NSN(s)—Product Name(s):
- 8415-00-NIB-1374—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Olive Green, PG/5
  - 8415-00-NIB-1375—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Brown, PG/5
  - 8415-00-NIB-1376—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Tan, PG/5
  - 8415-00-NIB-1378—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Camo, PG/5
  - 8415-00-NIB-1379—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Black, PG/5
  - 8415-00-NIB-1380—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Olive Green, PG/50
  - 8415-00-NIB-1381—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Brown, PG/50
  - 8415-00-NIB-1382—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Tan, PG/50
  - 8415-00-NIB-1383—Face Covering/Mask, Universally Sized, Camo, PG/50
  - 8415-00-NIB-1384—Face Covering/

Mask, Universally Sized, Black, PG/50

**Mandatory Source of Supply:** Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC; Industries of the Blind, Inc., Greensboro, NC; Blind Industries & Services of Maryland, Baltimore, MD; Alphapointe, Kansas City, MO; Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries, Inc., Corbin, KY

**Mandatory For:** Broad Government Requirement. The designated mandatory sources of supply will annually produce up to 28,960 packages (5 masks per package) for each of the NSNs 8415-00-NIB-1374 through 8415-00-NIB-1379, and up to 2,896 packages for each of the NSNs 8415-00-NIB-1380 through 8415-00-NIB-1384 (50 masks per package).

**Contracting Activity:** COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

**Michael R. Jurkowski,**  
Deputy Director, Business & PL Operations.  
[FR Doc. 2020-14899 Filed 7-9-20; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Additions and Deletions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds products to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes products from the Procurement List previously furnished by such agencies.

**DATES:** Date added to and deleted from the Procurement List: August 9, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1401 S Clark Street, Suite 715, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-4149.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 603-2117, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or email [CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov](mailto:CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Additions

On 6/5/2020, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice of proposed additions to the Procurement List. This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503 (a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the products and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the products listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 8501-8506 and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the products to the Government.

2. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the products to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 8501-8506) in connection with the products proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

### End of Certification

Accordingly, the following products are added to the Procurement List:

#### Product(s)

NSN(s)—Product Name(s)

MR 13037—Microwave Bacon Crisper  
MR 13039—Microwave Popcorn Popper  
MR 13065—Microwave Steamer  
MR 13074—Set, Bowls, Glass, Prep, 4 Piece  
MR 13075—Set, Mini Grate and Slice  
MR 13079—Set, Glass Containers, Smart Seal, 12 Piece

MR 13151—POP 3 Pc Slim Container Set  
MR 13152—POP 4 Pc Baking Accessories Set  
**Mandatory Source of Supply:** Cincinnati Association for the Blind, Cincinnati, OH  
**Contracting Activity:** Military Resale-Defense Commissary Agency

NSN(s)—Product Name(s)

MR 10767—Saver, Grapefruit, Includes Shipper 20767  
MR 13050—Iced Tea Tumbler, 16 Ounces, Green  
MR 13051—Iced Tea Tumbler, 16 Ounces, Pink

**Mandatory Source of Supply:** Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC

**Contracting Activity:** Military Resale-Defense Commissary Agency

NSN(s)—Product Name(s)

MR 13032—Shelf Liner, Biodegradable, Clear  
**Mandatory Source of Supply:** LC Industries, Inc., Durham, NC

**Contracting Activity:** Military Resale-Defense Commissary Agency

NSN(s)—Product Name(s)

MR 11129—Bag, Paper, Lunch, 50 Count  
**Mandatory Source of Supply:** South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, Corpus Christi, TX

**Contracting Activity:** Military Resale-Defense Commissary Agency

### Deletions

On 6/5/2020, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice of proposed deletions from the Procurement List. This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503 (a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3.

After consideration of the relevant matter presented, the Committee has determined that the products listed below are no longer suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 8501-8506 and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.

2. The action may result in authorizing small entities to furnish the products to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 8501-8506) in connection with the products deleted from the Procurement List.

### End of Certification

Accordingly, the following products are deleted from the Procurement List:

#### Products

NSN(s)—Product Name(s)

4220-00-926-9459—Vest, Life Preserver, USN, Yellow, Small  
4220-00-926-9461—Cover, Protective, Life Preserver  
4220-00-926-9460—Cover, Protective, Life Preserver  
4220-00-926-9462—Cover, Protective, Life Preserver  
4220-00-926-9464—Cover, Protective, Life Preserver  
4220-00-926-9465—Cover, Protective, Life Preserver  
4220-00-926-9466—Cover, Protective, Life