



DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL READINESS
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
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SUBJECT: Inspection Standards for Seaworthy Containers in Support of Operations
Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

The Department is experiencing container distribution challenges in OEF and OIF operations relating to the sufficient supply of seaworthy containers that meet military inspection standards. Since 2003, DoD has purchased a substantial amount of commercial containers to support USCENTCOM OEF and OIF requirements. Many of these containers have remained in the theater since their purchase and now require inspection before they can be safely moved. While they may not meet the stringent DoD container inspection standards of MIL-HDBK-138B, they may be seaworthy according to commercial standards and are available for transporting general DoD cargo.

To ensure a sufficient supply of seaworthy containers currently positioned in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility and to reduce the risk of exposing personnel to potential hostile conditions while moving containers to repair facilities, DoD will adopt the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC/CFR 49 Part 452.3) as the required guidance for recertification and inspection of containers transporting general cargo in support of OEF/OIF operations. The CSC is an International Maritime Organization (IMO) convention, which is a commercial industry standard establishing provisions for containers used in international transport. USCENTCOM will develop specific container inspection criteria that meet the requirements of the CSC and, prior to implementation, coordinate these criteria with appropriate organizations including the U.S. Coast Guard.

MIL-HDBK-138B will continue to be the DoD standard for inspection, re-inspection, and selection of containers used to transport ammunition, as specified in the Defense Transportation Regulation.

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