

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA) BRIEFS THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON TACTICAL SHELTERS (JOCOTAS) ON ISSUES RELATED TO PROCUREMENT OF NONSTANDARD SHELTERS. On 19 November 2014 the DoD Class II Commodity Manager briefed the JOCOTAS community on problems related to non standard shelters with National Stock Numbers (NSN). Many, Commercial “Off the Shelf (COTS)” Items have NSNs assigned to them at the request of a Government organization to facilitate acquisition using buying agencies, such as DLA and GSA websites. This can result in the use of a non-standard shelter which is against JOCOTAS rules without requesting a waiver first. The rules are based on safety of use, economical sustainment costs and interoperability between shelters. The DLA procurement officers’ role is focused on executing users’ requisitions. They have no way to filter the requests or alert buyers they were submitting a requisition for a non standard shelter. Standard shelters go through extensive testing prior to fielding. This includes Technical Testing that validates the shelter performs in accordance with the Capabilities Development Document requirements, Operational Testing to insure that Warfighters have the proper skill sets and training to use the equipment and, Human Factors and Safety of Use assessment that verifies that the shelter poses no unreasonable hazard. Once these criteria are met and the report is approved by a Milestone Decision Authority, a full Materiel Release is prepared and the equipment may then be distributed to the field. To intervene in the procuring process the DLA buyer would require a flag to alert them that a non-standard shelter has been requested. To accomplish that function DLA stated that each Service would have to provide a list of nonstandard, national stock numbers (NSN) they would like to preclude their members from procuring without proper authorization from their JOCOTAS representatives. DLA HQ will take action to discuss with DLA Information Services on how to insert an advice code, project code, or flag the NSNs in a manner to have the system reject the requisition and alert the buyer of special procedures required to purchase nonstandard items. A follow on step would be needed to assist the buyer in finding a standard shelter. One of the ways to reduce the acquisition/development of nonstandard shelters is to insure that Product Managers (PM) across DoD are aware of the requirement to obtain a waiver to employ that approach. Once the PM begins the waiver process they will be channeled to explore standard options with system experts. An educated decision can be made at that time on which alternative provides the best solution.

