§ 101–30.101–2 Item of supply.

_item of supply_ means an item of production that is purchased, cataloged, and assigned a national stock number by the Government. The item of supply is determined by the requirements of each Government agency’s supply system. The item of supply concept differentiates one item from another item in the Federal Catalog System. Each item of supply is expressed in and fixed by a national item identification number. An item of supply may be:

(a) A single item of production;
(b) Two or more items of production that are functionally interchangeable;
(c) A more precise quality controlled item than the regular item of production, or
(d) A modification of a regular item of production.

[46 FR 35644, July 10, 1981]


The _national stock number_ (NSN) is the identifying number assigned to each item of supply. The NSN consists of the 4-digit Federal Supply Classification (FSC) code and the 9-digit national item identification number (NIIN). The written, printed, or typed NSN configuration is 1234–00–567–8901. The following terms are elements of the 13-digit national stock number:

(a) _Federal Supply Classification_ (FSC) is a 4-digit number which groups similar items into classes.
(b) _National Codification Bureau_ (NCB) code is a 2-digit number designating the central cataloging office of the NATO or other friendly country which assigned the national item identification number (NIIN) and is used as the first two digits of the NIIN.
(c) _National item identification number_ (NIIN) is a 9-digit number composed of the NCB code number (2-digits) followed by 7 other nonsignificant digits.

[41 FR 11308, Mar. 18, 1976]