



From MBA USA

A newsletter for GSA Certified Safe and Vault Technicians and GSA Approved Inspectors.

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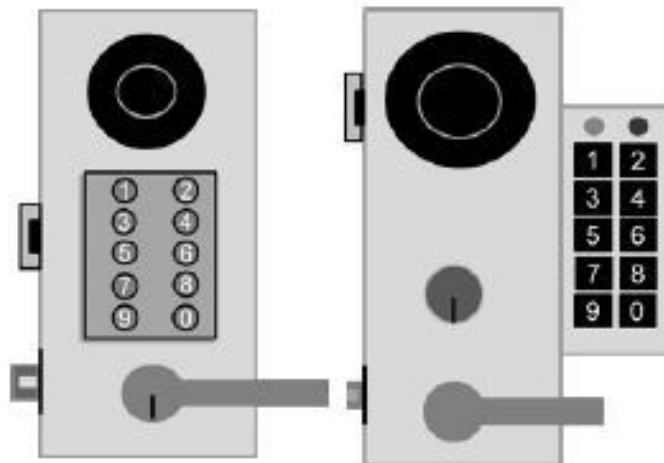
Just a few new things

Last April, the Interagency Committee on Security Equipment (IACSE), Storage Equipment and Locking Systems (SEALS) subcommittee conducted several off-site meetings. These are meetings in which members of the committee meet with some of the GSA container and lock manufacturers and the GSA approved training organizations. In addition to the committee, the group included some contracting specialists and, as an

instructor for one of the GSA approved training organizations, I was privileged to attend most of the meetings. This newsletter is a recap of some of the things I learned at these meetings.

Type I and Type III Lock Extensions

You may know that as of FF-L-2890B, dated April 17, 2012, there have been six “Types” of lock extensions and as of FF-L-2890C, dated February 22, 2019, four more Types were added for a total of 10. (see GSA News number 10, March 8, 2019). One of the issues regarding two of the lock extension Types is the difference in the concept of what was expected by the writers of FF-L-2890 and what eventually got approved. These are Type I and Type III. Both of these Types are described in FF-L-2890B as having integrated mechanical access control capability. This was later changed in FF-L-2890B, Amendment 3, January 25, 2017 to “integrated mechanical access control lock or electronic access control system”. This was intended to describe some sort of stand-alone access control built into the lock extension (besides the FF-L-2740 combination lock). The existing Type I and Type III locks do not really meet this description. There are conceptual drawings near the back of FF-L-2890C (see below). It is expected that the existing Type I and Type III locks will be removed from the Qualified Products List (QPL) or the manufacturers will come up with new designs.



New Kids on the Block

As I mentioned in GSA News number 8, January 31, 2019, there is a new manufacturer of GSA approved containers. These "new kids on the block" are American Made Safe and Security, or AMSS for short. AMSS is located in Batavia, Ohio, just a couple of hours north of my location. Shortly after GSA News 8 came out, I was contacted by Soundra Roberts, President of Contracts and Sales at AMSS who invited me to come up for a visit. During my visit I got a tour of AMSS and their production plant across the street, A-1 Fabricators. I got to visit again during the off-site meeting there in April. Their website can be found by clicking the link below. When you visit their website, you will see a wide range of products. They currently have approval for class 5, class 5-W, class 6 and class 6-S security files. They are working on getting approval for Map & Plan containers, IPS containers and vault doors.

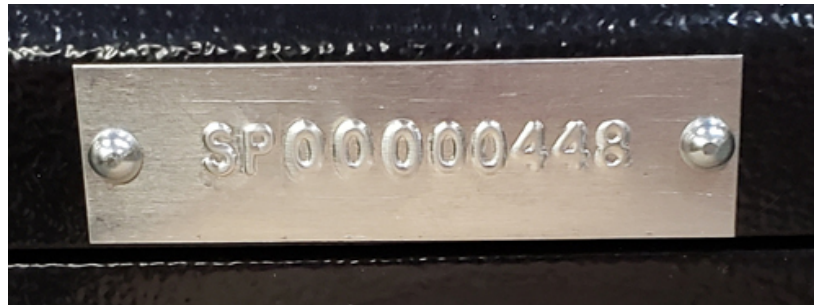
Alpha's Class 6-S

During the meeting at Alpha Safe, they were informed that their class 6-S container (security file for shipboard use) had completed and passed all of the testing for approval. I'm sure a new QPL will be coming out soon to include this container as well as the class 6-S for AMSS.

Will-Burt

During the visit to Will-Burt in Orrville, Ohio, I noticed a difference in the serial number format for their containers. This is indeed big news to GSA geeks like me. In 1979, Mosler began using a helpful serial number format for their GSA approved products and some non-GSA products. In this system, the first two digits identified the product. For instance, a 1979 and later Mosler serial number that began with 14, meant it was a class 6, 4-drawer, single lock, legal size container. A serial number that began with 34 would be found on a class 5 vault door with a right-hand swing. When

Mosler went bankrupt and Diebold took over the product line, Diebold-Mosler continued the serial number system. Will-Burt took over the former Mosler products in 2013 and also continued the serial number system, but added a "W" to the beginning of the number. Earlier this year that changed. Now Will-Burt containers will have serial numbers of an entirely new system. They will, regardless of the product configuration, begin with "SP" (Security Product), then a sequential number.



The new Will-Burt serial number format.

While at Will-Burt, I also learned that they no longer offer GSA approved vault doors.

End of Exemption Process

In 2014 the way GSA containers were purchased was changed to require their procurement through GSA Global Supply. About the same time, a process for allowing exemptions for contractors to continue to purchase containers directly from the manufacturers was established. That exemption process is coming to an end. Beginning in FY 2020 (October 1, 2019), all new GSA approved security containers must be procured through the GSA Global Supply procurement system. There is a link below to a letter from GSA that explains a bit more.

Until next time . . .

Regards,

Andy Dennison, CMST, CML

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[GSA Related Downloads on mbausa.com](#)

[Direct Link to Federal Specification FF-L-2890C \(pdf\)](#)

[Link to American Made Safe & Security](#)

[Link to Alpha Safe & Vault](#)

[Link to Will-Burt](#)

[Direct Link to End of Exemption Letter \(pdf\)](#)

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