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

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NEW AMENDMENT FOR AA-F-358J

Federal Specification AA-F-358J, Amendment 3 was released on July 24, 2018. It is 10 pages long where Amendment 2 was only 4 pages. In comparing the old amendment with the new one, it looks as if a lot of changes are being made. However, most of the changes are simply restructuring the wording and shifting a few paragraphs.

The real changes and additions are as follows:

- Under paragraph 3.2 Material they've added sub-paragraph, 3.2.1 Class 5 Steel Requirements. There already was a paragraph 3.2.1, so what was 3.2.1 is now 3.2.2, what was 3.2.2 is now 3.2.3 and the next

several paragraphs have been shifted down with new paragraph numbers. The paragraphs that got shifted are all worded the same with the exception of the paint needing to be 3.0 mil thick. Anyway, the new paragraph 3.2.1 simply states that Class 5 containers shall be made of AR500 steel (or equivalent) with a minimum thickness of 5/16". It doesn't say, but I'd make the assumption that this will apply to class 5-W containers too.

- Paragraph 3.3.2 Dimensions and weights has had a sentence inserted about the minimum weight (except for some models) being 250 lbs.
- New paragraph, 3.3.2.1 Cabinet mounting pertains to securely mounting (bolting down) "Special Size" containers. These are the Class 5 Size IV (*theoretically* a class 5, 1-drawer), Class 6 Sizes VI and VII (2-drawer special size and 1-drawer special size). These sizes along with Class 6-S containers ". . . shall be mounted in accordance with manufacturer's provided instructions in order to maintain GSA approval."
- New paragraph, 3.3.3.2 Unspecified design features simply rejects designs that the Government does not ask for.
- New paragraph 3.8.6 Weight Label adds a new label for containers that weigh less than 250 lbs. (except field safes) stating the container must be securely mounted to maintain GSA approval.

Much of the rest of the changes are simple wording changes. Because of these wording changes, entire paragraphs are included. This appears to be the reason Amendment 3 has so many pages.

I'd like to add one final thing. The committee that writes Federal Specifications and their Amendments does a great job, but sometimes they miss a thing or two. So the next thing I will say is not intended as criticism at all. I'm just used to picking out little details. In the new wording for paragraph 6.1 Intended use, there is a mistake. About midway through 6.1 inside of parentheses, it says "except Class 6 Type VIII". This should be "except Class 6 Size VIII". **Welcome to my world.**

Regards,

Andy Dennison, CMST, CML

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