



General Services Administration
Interagency Committee on Security Equipment and Locking Systems
22 August 2019

To: Security Container Manufacturers
Training Organizations
Lock Manufacturers

Subject: Black Label Replacement Parts

In Federal Specification 809D it is stated that in section 5 that once a black label, GSA-approved security file cabinet is neutralized it shall not be repaired (Table 1, page 8). It is important to note that the term “neutralized” means the cabinet was locked in the closed condition and it was opened using one of the four neutralization methods described in section 6 of Federal Standard 809D. The new “DO NOT REPAIR” statement in Table 1 of Federal Specification 809D means that once a black label security file cabinet has been neutralized it cannot be repaired and put back in service protecting classified information.

GSA-approved black label security file cabinets that remain in service protecting classified information should continue to be periodically inspected and maintained as described in section 4 of Federal standard 809D. Specifically, the following routine maintenance and repair procedures can be accomplished on a black label security file cabinet:

- The combination lock can be replaced.
- The drawer suspensions can be replaced or repaired.
- The drawer handles and springs can be replaced or adjusted.
- Periodic adjustments (drawer head, thumb latches etc.) and bolt tightening can be accomplished as required.

All black label security file cabinets are now over 30 years and should be considered near there end of life due to worn out parts (locks, suspensions, drawer stops etc.) some of which can cause safety issues. In addition, black label security file cabinets were not designed for the current FF-L-2740 electromechanical combination locks which can make the installation difficult and cause potential operational and security concerns. From a cost effectiveness perspective, it is now less expensive to procure a new red label security file cabinet rather than neutralize, repair and replace the lock on a black label cabinet that only has a few years of life left in all the other parts.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Pollock at Christopher.pollock@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Pollock".

Christopher Pollock
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