Program Summary: Ergonomic Tool Workplace Health and Safety Offering

GSA Mission Support

The General Services Administration Federal Acquisition Service, Heartland Acquisition Center (HAC), has been delegated the responsibility for managing and procuring a variety of Federal Supply Classes (FSCs), including FSC 5130, "Hand Tools, Power Driven". Technical descriptions can take information from multiple sources including non-government standards, federal and military specifications~~,~~ or commercial item descriptions.

Within FSC 5130, vibration and noise compliant tools are becoming an area of particular emphasis. Our priority is twofold. First, is to offer tools that provide greater protection from debilitating conditions caused, and aggravated by, hand tool vibration. Second is to introduction tools with greater productivity and efficiency. The outcome is safer operation with greater cost effectiveness. GSA HAC has a project team that researches current technologies, for safety and performance thresholds appropriate for assignment of new National Stock Numbers. These threshold requirements are incorporated into the writing of Item Purchase Descriptions. Research is comprehensive, and includes a constant watch on changing performance standards, industry trends, and new technology. New National Stock Numbers are continuously being created to support new requirements, and in turn, Item Purchase Descriptions are written to support acquisition.

Item Configuration

The FSC 5130 power tool commodity encompasses more than 2,700 active National Stock Numbers including the vibration controlled offerings. These NSNs reference commercial item descriptions, military specifications, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and Society of American Engineers (SAE) Aerospace standards. ASME and SAE standards are universally recognized standards throughout all of our supplier and customer communities.

GSA HAC is continuously involved with key non-government standards agencies that support our commodities. This allows GSA to have influence on how these standards will be developed for future use, and how to guide manufacturers in responding to the mission requirements of DoD and the Federal government for procurement of these tools.

Individual Item Purchase Descriptions are continuously updated by GSA HAC Engineers. During the process of maintaining these descriptions we review the latest applicable performance standards, and consult with both industry and our customers. Product information, to include Low-Vibration attributes, are recorded on the "Total Item Record" within the Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS), as well as in the GSA product catalogs where applicable*.

Technical Information

All tools considered "vibration controlled" shall be tested in accordance with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 28927 Hand-held Portable Power Tools-Test Methods for Evaluation of Vibration Emission and documented in accordance with SAE Aerospace Standard AS6228 "Safety Requirements for Procurement, Maintenance and Use of Hand-held Powered Tools (Published 9/12/14)", using the Noise and Vibration Declaration Form found on the GSA Vibration Controlled Tools information portal. The AS6228 standard addresses the ergonomic impacts of electric, pneumatic, hydraulic and liquid fuel hand power tools used on advanced composite structural materials on aircraft, ship, and other platforms, and associated exposure limits. Ergonomics and productivity are task-dependent and related to the characteristics of the individual using a product and the workplace setting. Initial selection of power tools is the first step in a safety management process that includes assessment of the user's needs and work tasks being performed, worker evaluation and feedback. Having a safety management process is an essential part of having a workplace safety management system as required by Federal employee safety and health programs (29 CFR part 1960). This supports Federal Agency programs, and best practices such as those of ANSI Z10 Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems. For a more detailed look at the study of vibration control safety, please refer to this Exposure Action Value analysis.

Requests for new National Stock Numbers (NSNs)

Field units and program offices can request new NSNs via Supply Support Request (SSR). Contact your local supply office or support activity for details. For general information, refer to the "Defense Logistics Information Service Cataloging" website below. Specific questions can be directed to Service Program Officers for Cataloging. As a last resort, direct requests can be sent to General Services Administration, listed below. If the request is for a vibration controlled tool, GSA will ensure suppliers to complete a Noise and Vibration Declaration Form. Subsequently, vibration control data should be included as part of the NSN characteristic requirements.

Defense Logistics Information Service Cataloging
http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Offers/Services/FIC.aspx

Information needed for SSR

- Original Equipment Manufacturer with CAGE code, model and/or part number of too. Include supplier information if different from manufacturer.
- Governing, applicable specifications
- Support documentation, to include Technical description and drawings (if available), commercial product description, end use, specific salient characteristics required to allow competitive procurement.
- Ergonomic standard needing to be met.
- Applicable web site(s)
- Name, phone # and email of originator

***Please note:** In order for an item to appear in the GSA catalog it must be under a formal contract.