3. FINDING THE ITEM IN THE HMIS

When using the HMIS, you should remember that the data in the system reflect only those data provided on products supplied to the Department of Defense. In other words, the HMIS contains data only on hazardous materials used by the Government. Keep in mind that the HMIS is a growing system. Just because an item is not listed in the system does not mean that it's not hazardous. If you suspect "a nonlisted item is hazardous, you should contact your focal point listed in Appendix A. If you do not have a focal point, you should contact the DLA at the address on page 2-2 under "B. Nonactive participants."

WHEN YOU KNOW THE STOCK NUMBER

To unlock information from the HMIS, you need the right key. In most cases, the 13-digit National Stock Number (NSN) is that key. For some items listed in the HMIS there are one or more letters in the stock number field. This is for items assigned a Local Stock Number (LSN) or an Activity Control Number (ACN). For example, 8010-00-NOO-0928 is a LSN for an item entered into the HMIS by the Navy. (See Appendix B for definition of LSN.)

An NSN consists of two parts: the Federal Supply class (FSC) and the National Item Identification Number (NIIN). The first four digits of a stock number make up the FSC -- a supply cataloging code under which similar items are grouped. In the example used in the previous paragraph, 8010 is the FSC. The Federal Cataloging System’s Cataloging Handbook H 2-1 (SB 708-21) defines Federal Supply Class 8010 as consisting of paints, dopes, varnishes, and related products. The last nine characters of the stock number make up the NIIN. The NIIN is the unique portion of the stock number assigned to an item. The NIIN is illustrated below:

8010 - 00-110-4498
FSC NIIN

Suppose you need to identify any hazardous components in an item with an NSN of 6850-00-292-9780. Since the items in the HMIS are arranged according to the last nine characters of a stock number, ignore the first four digits. You will search the microfiche for the number 00-292-9780.
First go to your cumulative update and look at the information line at the top of each microfiche. Locate the section containing the stock numbers. Those stock numbers refer to the first item on that microfiche sheet. Look through the cumulative update until you find the sheet that has the closest number to but less than 00-292-9780. That microfiche sheet may contain the information you need. The lower right-hand corner of the microfiche sheet contains an index of all the numbers on the sheet. Place the microfiche sheet in the reader and refer to the index. You will see that 00-292-9780 is not listed. Therefore, it is not in the cumulative update and you must search the basic package for the information required.
Microfiche Index.

When repeating the above procedure with the basic package, you will see that the item you are searching for -- NSN 6850-00-292-9780 -- contains 37 percent xylene. More than one entry for your stock number may exist. This is because there is a separate entry for each vendor who supplies the item to the Department of Defense. Since vendor formulations may vary, you should always look at all entries under a stock number to identify the entry in which you are interested.

Why not look in the basic package first? True, there are more items listed in the basic package. However, the cumulative update is more current. That means that if new information on NSN 6850-00-292-9780 was received after publication of the basic package in November, the listing would be changed and included in the next cumulative update. If, for example, the item's proper shipping name was changed, the listing would be corrected. The updated record for NSN 6850-00-292-9780 would then be in your cumulative update. If the NSN does not appear in the cumulative update, then the most current information on the item is in the basic package.

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE STOCK NUMBER

If you don't have the stock number (NSN/LSN) for an item, you may still be able to find it in the HMIS. The last microfiche sheets of both the basic package and the cumulative update contain the cross-reference index. If you have the item's part number, trade name, or other identifier used by the manufacturer (for example, the manufacturer's catalog number), refer to the part number cross-reference.

You will notice that each product in this cross-reference has four columns. If you find the item you are looking for, the second column will indicate the NSN (or LSN), the third column gives you the manufacturer's name, and the last column provides the Federal Supply code for Manufacturers (FSCM).
Data are entered into HMIS cross-references in one of two ways -- alphabetically or numerically. Therefore, simply knowing the part number of an item does not guarantee a simple search to find the stock number you need in the part number cross-reference.

Let's try to find the stock number for a yellow corrosion inhibitor sealant with a part number of 71-Y-1 and manufactured by the Deft Chemical Coatings Company. This item may have been entered alphabetically under “C” for corrosion inhibitor or “s” for sealant; or it may have been entered numerically under 71-Y-1. By searching the part number cross-reference, we locate the listing (entered numerically): 71-Y-1 sealant, yellow, corrosion inhibitor 8030-01-016-5805, Deft Chemical Coatings. Now that the stock number is known, refer to the HMIS cumulative update or basic package to find the product information required.

An example from the part number cross-reference.

Part number cross-reference showing 71-Y-1.
There are two other cross-references in the HMIS -- the FSCM "xref-reference (FSCM XREF) and the specification cross-reference (SPEC XREF).

FSCM and specification cross-references.

The FSCM XREF is a four-column listing of NSNS, Manufacturers, and part numbers indexed according to the FSCM assigned to the manufacturer (column 1).

Example of the FSCM cross-reference.

The SPEC XREF lists items in the HMIS according to the Government specification the items are manufactured to meet.

There are many items in the Government procurement system that do not have specifications. Many of these items are listed in the SPEC XREF. They are listed in the cross-reference before those items that do have a Government specification.
Some items do not have specifications.

When attempting to locate an item by Federal specification number, search the alphabetical listing under both "Fed. Spec." and "Federal Specification." For example, an item manufactured to meet Federal Specification w-G-1690 may be listed alphabetically in the cross-reference as either "Fed. Spec. w-G-1690," or "Federal Specification w-G-1690," or w-G-1690.

A fourth cross-reference--sorted by manufacturer’s name--became available with the February 1986 cumulative update of the microfiche. This cross-reference is a four-column alphabetized list of manufacturers and suppliers, FSCMs, part numbers, and stock numbers. Figure 3-1 is a sample of the format for this cross-reference.
Entries into the four cross-references are also possible with or without spaces and dashes. For example, MIL SPEC MIL-E-9500 may be entered in any of three ways: MIL SPEC MIL-E-9500, MIL-E-9500, or MIL-E9500.

A potential problem exists between the letter "O" and the number 'O." If, for example, you need to know the identity of part number OC-265 manufactured by J.T. Baker Chemical Company, you may need to use some imagination in using the cross-reference. The item may be listed either alphabetically beginning with the letter “O" or it may be listed numerically under the digit "O." Likewise, the dash may or may not be input. Thus, J.T. Baker Chemical Company's OC-265 may be listed in any one of six ways: alphabetically under OC-265, OC 265, or Oc265, or numerically under 0C-265, O C 265, or 0C265.

WHEN AN ITEM IS NOT IN HMIS

You search HMIS and find your item of interest is not in HMIS. Can you assume that the item of interest is nonhazardous? No, you cannot. As was written earlier, the HMIS is a growing database. Some items in the supply system have not yet been entered into HMIS. Therefore, to be sure about the particular item you are searching for, check with your focal point (see Appendix A). Your focal point should be able to help you identify any hazards associated with the item in question or suggest other avenues you might explore in your search for information.