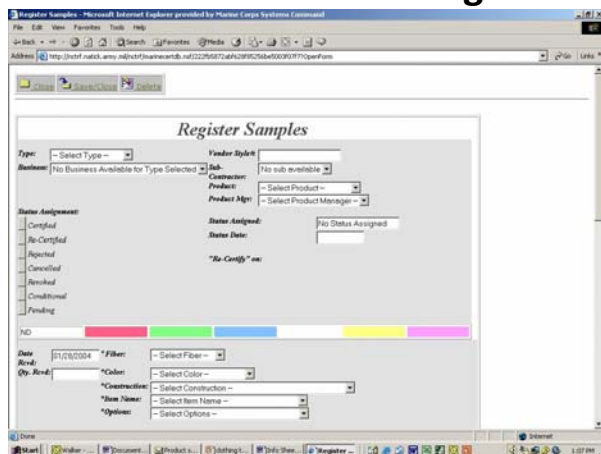


USMC Certification Program



CERTIFICATION URL:

<http://nctrf.natick.army.mil/nctrf/marinecertdb.ns>

Purpose

To ensure Marine Corps uniform items meet specifications and are manufactured by approved sources, and that a program exists to maintain quality control on these items.

Programmatic

- The database is operational- contains 302 companies and over 544 items
- Approximately 73 companies have been certified/re-certified since Jan 2004
- Approximately 127 new items have been entered into the certification database
- Certification Manual is a locked document housed under Marine Corps publications for vendor use in re-certification process. An amendment was issued to include information for optional T-shirts with various clothing properties
- Inspections are conducted in coordination with (1) Natick QA; (2) Product Manager inspections, (3) Sample re-submittal

Status

Phase IV Implementation

Re-certification

Next slated: Vanguard, Atlanta Cutlery, Officers Equipment, Marlow White, Fechheimer, The Supply Room, The Marine Shop, The Name Tape Co.

USMC Benefits

- A process designed to maintain quality control on uniforms and accessories

- Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) has agreed that, when appropriate; new contract solicitations will involve certified vendors competing

among each other. Ensures quality vendors supply Marines with their needed items.

Recent Developments

- Updated t-shirt specification now addresses anti-microbial, flame retardant and moisture wicking capabilities.
- Specification, certification letters, approvals and rejections are uploaded. Upcoming improvements to database will make it more user friendly.
- Vendors being advised of certification expirations and mass re-submittals are underway. Spike in new solicitations for certification.
- Hub & die inventory being addressed.
- New design for the Female Dress & Service Cap replacing the current Woman's Cap's PGC 01813 (Dress) & PGC 02036 (Service). Each will consist of a frame with sewn on cover. The Service Cap will be constructed from a green poly/wool gabardine cloth, and the Dress Cap from a poly/stretch knit with a urethane topcoat. There will be four different versions: Enlisted, Company Grade, Field Grade and General Officers. The new design is not yet fielded. The current caps will continue to be provided by the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia until the new cap can be procured. Current procurements and production are being done with the objective of having a minimal amount of residual assets in the current design at the beginning of FY11. Estimates are in the range of 5000 for PGC 01813 White Dress Cap and 5000 for PGC 02036 Green Service Cap.

Issues

- Certification Process for raw material producer, end item manufacturer and retailer needs to be defined in Certification Technical Manual.
- Quality Control Policies and inspections need to be expanded and enforced in order to prevent and address issues early on.
- Storage capabilities for large diagrams and cartoons: Presently, copies of originals must be made locally and provided to vendors on an individual basis. Goal is to have them scanned and available electronically, or web based.

Training

- QA Training from Natick QA for site visits.
- DAU classes for Production, Quality Assurance, and Manufacturing.

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