

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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1. PURPOSE

This regulation describes policies and procedures for the production and procurement of printing, microforming, and duplication of materials for USDA. The Secretary has delegated authority to OC, at 7 CFR 2.36, to determine policy and provide leadership and centralized operational direction for all USDA and agency information activities.

2. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATIONS

This regulation supersedes DR 1420-001, "Composition and Printing."

3. POLICY

The printing, microforming, and duplication of materials necessary to conduct the programs of USDA and its agencies are integral parts of the coordinated information process by which the Department keeps the public informed. A key objective of this central printing activity is to use the most economical printing methods consistent with the requirements of need, time, quality, distribution, and effectiveness.

4. AUTHORITY

Special statutory and regulatory authorities provide the basis on which printing is obtained.

- a. Legal Requirements. Except as otherwise specified, funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used for printing and binding (7 U.S.C. § 2239. All Federal printing must be procured through GPO (44 U.S.C. 501 and 502; section 207(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1993 (44 U.S.C. 501 note)). The exceptions are:
 - (1) when GPO cannot provide the printing service (FAS 8.802(a)(1); 44 U.S.C. 504)
 - (2) printing in field printing plants that have been approved by and are operated by a Federal Department, independent office, or establishment (44 U.S.C. 501(2));
 - (3) the procurement of printing by a Federal Department, independent office, or establishment from allotments for contract field printing (44 U.S.C. 501 (2));
 - (4) the procurement of any printing related to the production of Government publications (including printed forms) (a) when the individual printing orders cost \$1,000 or less, if the work is not of a continuing or repetitive nature, or (b) when printing from other sources is specifically authorized by law (section 207 of the Legislative Branch appropriations Act, 1993 (44 U.S.C. § 501 note)).

- b. Statutory Exemptions on Printing. The Foreign Agricultural Service has a waiver from the Government Printing Office to use its funds for printing outside the United States, where it is more cost effective to do so.
 - (1) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use appropriated funds for meat inspection for the purchase of printed tags, labels, stamps, and certificates, without regard to existing laws applicable to public printing (7 U.S.C. § 431).
 - (2) The Secretary is authorized to use funds appropriated to carry out chapter 11 of title 7, U.S.C. (honeybee activities), for printing and binding without regard to 44 U.S.C. § 501 (7 The Secretary is authorized to use funds appropriated to carry out chapter 11 of title 7, U.S.C. § 285).
 - (3) Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to procure printing directly from commercial sources using CCC funds (15 U.S.C. §§ 714b(g). 714b(j)).
- c. FAR. FAR Subpart 8.8 (48 C.F.R. §§ 8.800-8.802) provides policy for the acquisition of Government printing and related supplies,
- d. JCP, Government Printing and Binding Regulations copies are distributed within USDA by the OC, Printing Services Division.
- e. Secretary's OC Delegations. The Secretary has designated OC as the Central Printing Authority (7 C.F.R. §2.36(a)(2)(v)). The Central Printing Authority shall have the responsibility for the conduct of a coordinated program controlling the development, production, procurement, and distribution of materials through the use of conventional printing and binding methods or multiple-copy microform methods. It also shall control duplicating and automatic copy-processing or copier-duplicating equipment or machines that can be used for printing in volumes exceeding those of duplicating work,(Government Printing & binding Regulations, section 30). That control does not relate to office or desk-type copiers which are subject to Agriculture Property Management Regulations. OC is the only contact for the Department and its agencies with JCP and GPO. Conferences between agencies and GPO or contract printers may be necessary to resolve major problems. OC shall determine when agency participation is required on printing matters with GPO or printing contractors and shall arrange such conferences.

- f. OC will designate sources of printing, copying, duplicating, and microforming for the following:
 - (1) Information material for public use, including publications and periodicals as described in DR 1410.001, Publications Review/ Clearance Policy;
 - (2) Administrative materials, including memorandums, letters, speeches, newsletters, internal reports, program announcements, grade manuals, regulations, regulatory guidelines, training materials, interoffice memo pads, forms, and similar kinds of materials not defined as publications in DR 1410.001.

5. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This regulation applies to all agencies and staff offices of the Department.

6. ABBREVIATIONS

AGPMR - Agriculture Property Management Regulations

DR - Departmental Regulation

FAR – Federal Acquisition Regulation

GPO - Government Printing Office

JCP - Joint Committee on Printing, U.S. Congress

NAL - National Agricultural Library

OC - Office of Communications

OO - Office of Operations

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

7. REPORTS

JCP Report 1 - Printing Plants Except Plants Primarily Concerned in Map and/or Chart Reproduction

JCP Report 2 - Commercial Printing Report

JCP Report 3 - Acquisition of Power-operated Collators for Use in Facilities Other than Printing Plants

JCP Report 4 - Plants Primarily Concerned in Map and/or Chart Reproduction

JCP Report 5 - Annual Plant Inventories

JCP Report 6 - Stored Equipment

JCP Report 7 - Excess Equipment

JCP Duplicating and Copying Report

Notice of Completion of Transaction Authorized by JCP

8. FORMS

AD-59 - Request for Manuscript Review
AD-78 - Request for Printing and Binding
AD-270 - Request for Reproduction Service
AD-700 - Procurement Request
GPO-2511 - Print Order
SF-1 - Printing and Binding Requisition

9. DEFINITIONS

“Printing as defined in section 207 (a)(3) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1993 (44 U.S.C. § 501 note), “includes the processes of composition, platemaking, presswork, duplicating, silk screen processes, binding. Microform, and the end items of such processes.”

Terms used in printing and related activities are based on the JCP regulations. JCP regulations classify certain basic equipment for copying, composition, plate making, presswork, binding, and related activities. Equipment classifications are related to printing definitions and indicate the kinds of equipment requiring OC approval and formal notification of JCP. Other terms pertinent to the Department's printing activities include:

- a. **Microform.** A miniaturized image format for mass or general distribution used as a substitute for conventionally printed material, except microfilming of administrative records, accounting reports, and similar items. Microform duplicating is the production of up to 250 duplicates, or units from original microform; more than 250 duplicates constitutes printing and must be contracted through the Government Printing Office. One microform production unit is one roll of microfilm 100 feet in length or one microfiche;
- b. **Duplicating.** Reproduction involving stencils, masters, and plates to be used on single unit equipment not larger than 11 x 17 inches and with a maximum image of 10 3/4 x 14 1/4 inches. Jobs may not exceed 5,000 production units of any one page or 25,000 production units in the aggregate of multiple pages [(see sections 2-1)]. This definition includes reproduction by electrostatic copy machines capable of production of the volume listed above;
- c. **Production Unit.** A single sheet, from 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches up to 8 1/2 x 11 inches, printed on one side only in one color of ink. A sheet within these dimensions printed on both sides or on one side in two colors of ink is two production units. Total number of production units is the product of the number of copies and the number of sheets within the dimensions, which are printed in one or two colors. A page no larger than 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches is considered one-half of a production unit; an 8 1/2 x 3 2/3-inch page, one-third of a production unit; and an 8 1/2 x 2 3/4-inch page, one-fourth of a production unit;

- d. Printing Plant. Refers to a plant approved by JCP and located on property owned or controlled by the Government to produce printing as defined by JCP regulations;
- e. Map and Chart Printing Plants. Called "cartographic plants" for Departmental purposes, these plants are authorized by JCP to produce only multicolor flat and/or folded maps. The National Cartography and Geospatial Center, Fort Worth, Texas, is authorized to procure map work directly from commercial sources and from GPO;
- f. Camera-Ready Copy. A term commonly used among printers, designers, and editors to identify material prepared for photomechanical reproduction. The material can include words composed by a typesetting machine, an office machine, or an electronic character-generating device, as well as illustrations prepared by an artist or photographer. Preparation of camera ready copy is the last step in the assembly of material prior to delivery to a printer. The printer prepares negatives from the camera-ready copy for transferring an image to printing plates. Other terms used for camera-ready copy include: "camera copy," "camera-ready art," "line art," "reproduction copy," "boards," "mechanicals," "shooting art," and "shooting copy." Storage or disposal is the responsibility of the originating agency;
- g. Copying. Refers to the duplication or reproduction of an original work, or a facsimile of an original work, with the aid of a machine or device. Number of copies made generally provides the criteria for determining whether the reproduction process is to be considered printing or "office work." For instance, copying machines capable of reproducing more than 5,000 production units of any one page and 25,000 production units in the aggregate of multiple pages are classified as printing equipment.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Office of Communications. OC is responsible for USDA's printing policies. To carry out this responsibility, OC will:
 - (1) Review and approve final specifications for printing, marked copy, and other instructions;
 - (2) Provide advice and direction on printing methods and procedures and hold periodic meetings to explain new developments, improve procedures, and clarify instructions and requirements;
 - (3) Notify agencies of changes in printing specifications and deviations from standard practice when changes are necessary to meet schedules and deadlines;

- (4) Approve proposals for equipment and plant sites relating to copying (when defined as printing), duplicating, and microforming before notifying JCP;
 - (5) Approve Washington-based requests to use more than one color, full reverses, and separate covers and case bindings, and to exceed printing limitations;
 - (6) Survey printing facilities in USDA and periodically review materials produced in the field for production efficiency;
 - (7) Work closely with GPO to develop contracts for duplicating, and printing; serve as the Department's liaison with JCP, GPO, and other Government agencies on printing matters; and interpret and administer the printing statutes, policies, and regulations set forth by JCP and GPO.
- b. Office of Operations, this agency is responsible for Departmental property management policy and control, which include office or desk-type copiers. OO also will:
- (1) Operate headquarters duplicating and copying facilities;
 - (2) Work closely with OC to assure that copying and duplicating services are provided in the most cost effective manner consistent with program requirements.
- c. Agencies of the Department. Heads of agencies and staff offices, are responsible for assuring that requests for all kinds of microforming, copying, duplication, artwork, and printing required by their agencies and staff offices are properly prepared. These responsibilities include appropriate specifications and instructions for quality control, timely reproduction, and shipment of materials. Agency heads must also make sure that services and materials requested are held within limits necessary to carry on the work of the Department effectively and are consistent with the economical use of public funds. In addition, each agency will:
- (1) Designate, in Washington, D.C., and, if necessary, in each field office that procures printed materials one or more individuals to serve as a printing officer. (Some agency programs require close administrative office supervision over the printing of forms and similar materials; others require information office supervision over the printing of publications. Whether separate printing officers are necessary or one can do both tasks is the prerogative of each agency.) The officers based in the Washington area will represent their agencies with OC on printing matters. Printing officers in the field shall work through their headquarters in a manner determined by the agency administrator. Responsibilities of printing officers shall include review of camera

copy, photographs, and color transparencies for quality control before forwarding to OC for production;

- (2) Provide to OC on a designated schedule reports of the volume of printing procured both in Washington, D.C., and in the field on report forms described in section 7;
- (3) Provide annual data to OC as necessary on anticipated printing needs, with time requirements, to assure requirements can be met by term contracts;
- (4) Review agency printing problems and procedures regularly and consult OC on matters that need resolution in order to achieve economical and timely reproduction.

11. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

All materials for which microforming and printing are necessary shall be reviewed for the most economical methods of production consistent with requirements of time, quality, distribution, and any other such matters affecting the job. Specific concerns shall be:

- a. Size of Job. Number of copies to print is determined by audience size and needs. Limitations are:
 - (1) Work reproduced on duplicating and copying machines shall not exceed 5,000 production units of any one page or 25,000 production units in the aggregate of multiple pages;
 - (2) Work initiated by agency field offices shall not exceed 5,000 production units of any one page without prior authority of their Washington, D.C., agency administrator or, as in the case of publications, the agency headquarters information office.
- b. Two or More Colors. Printing in two or more colors increases costs. While most of the Department's printing needs require only one color of ink, multicolor printing can be used when it is needed to fulfill the purpose of the printed matter. Examples are maps and technical diagrams needing clarity, photographs and drawings to depict scientific accuracy, and materials to explain or draw attention to special programs such as recruiting, educational matters, safety programs, and similar activities as described in JCP regulations. Agency field offices shall submit justifications for using more than one color to their Washington headquarters information director. Washington offices shall submit their justifications to the Publications Review Clearance Policy. (see DR 1410.001, section 9).

- c. Illustrations and Photographs. Only illustrations that are functional and directly related to the transaction of public business shall be printed. Aggrandizement of individuals is prohibited (see JCP regulations).
- d. Covers and Binding. A self-cover of the same paper stock as the inner pages is the prescribed standard, especially if the publication is 32 pages or less and is not to be subjected to hard use. If an originating agency believes a publication 32 pages or less requires a separate cover, justification for approval must be submitted to OC in writing. Agency field offices must obtain prior approval from their Washington headquarters information office. Low-cost binding methods and materials to protect the printed matter should be practical and economical. All requests for case-bound covers require a written justification for approval by OC.
- e. Paper. Kinds of paper available for printing are listed in the paper catalog issued periodically by GPO. Paper selection affects both the cost and the quality of printing. The use of coated stock requires a written justification submitted for approval by OC.
- f. Composition. Type selection will be based on suitability to design, readability, and economy and will follow the prescribed formats listed in the USDA Visual Information Standards, located in The Office of Communications, Creative Media and Broadcast Center, Design Services. If the submitted copy--other than typewritten copy--was not obtained through JCP approved facilities, does not meet GPO and USDA standards, or otherwise fails to meet printing laws and regulations, it can be reset at the option of GPO or OC and the cost charged to the originating agency.
- g. Planning Printing Jobs. Jobs should be planned carefully as far in advance as possible. Otherwise, there can be wasted effort, reduction of quality, and excessive expense. Allow adequate lead time for the work to be done. Usually the shorter the lead time, the greater the planning required. To assure effective planning, agencies should:
 - (1) Analyze work to establish priorities, assign adequate staff, initiate time-consuming actions early, eliminate nonessential steps, and set realistic release dates;
 - (2) Plan to take advantage of printing contracts for fast service. Contracts have strict specifications, so jobs must be suited to the contracts;
 - (3) Select the most practical and economical form of composition. Composition often is the most time-consuming and costly step in the publishing process, especially if many proofs need to move back and forth between printer and author for reading and corrections. For effective planning on use of composition, follow the formats in

USDA Visual Information Standards, located in The Office of Communications, Creative Media and Broadcast Center, Design Services;

- (4) Keep jobs simple. Special design and layout add time and costs to the process, as does use of more than one color, separate covers and special binding, die cuts, too much white space, and blank pages;
 - (5) Avoid blank pages, as they generally add additional cost to a job. A written justification in advance of camera-copy preparation is required for a request that an entire publication be printed only on one side of each page;
 - (6) Avoid overtime costs. Surcharges for fast printing can significantly increase labor costs, depending upon where the job is handled. Overtime requirements must be worth the extra expense and must be fully justified;
 - (7) Plan distribution in the beginning.
- h. Rush Printing. When lead time is inadequate under normal procedures to meet an agency's needs, the agency printing officer should immediately consult with the OC, Printing Services Division. If camera-ready copy is not already prepared, the most time-saving composition process for the job will be selected. When camera-ready copy is available, procurement will be expedited by personal attention; the most reliable and fastest printing process will be selected; overtime will be authorized if essential, and arrangements will be made to obtain advance copies for special release, when appropriate.
 - i. Corrections and Changes in Proofs. To avoid additional costs and delays in handling proofs, all manuscripts or copy shall be carefully edited and prepared before submission to the printer. When a manuscript has advanced to page proof, nonessential improvements in language, form of expression, capitalization, paragraphing, etc., shall be avoided as well as author's alterations. These types of corrections and changes are expensive and create delays and therefore should be made before copy goes to the printer.
 - j. Errata Sheets. Errata sheets should be issued only when errors are of such magnitude as to affect the functional value of the subject material.
 - k. Form Style. All printing shall comply with the form determined by the Public Printer (44 U.S.C. 1105) and by the USDA Visual Management Manual. The USDA Visual Management Manual and the GPO Style Manual are the standard guides for USDA publications and other printed materials.

1. Self-Mailer Techniques. When economically advantageous, the penalty or postage-paid indicia shall be used directly on printed materials to avoid use of envelopes, wrappers, or packages. Space also shall be allowed for the name and address of individuals or organizations to which the material will be mailed.

12. REPRINTS AND REPRODUCIBLES

USDA policy encourages commercial groups and educational and nonprofit organizations to reprint USDA publications in their entirety or in part to increase dissemination of information at no cost to the Government. Federal publications are in the public domain, unless copyrighted by a grantee or a contractor, and may be reproduced by the public in whole or in part with or without credit. Any copyrighted material in a Federal publication cannot be reprinted by the public without permission from the copyright holder. A brief credit statement is encouraged, such as "Reprinted from (title of publication), published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture." Reprinted publications should not be used to imply endorsement by the Department of any commercial concern, product, or service nor shall USDA publications be combined with non-USDA publications such that the combinations would imply or identify the publication as a USDA publication.

- (1) Purchase of Reproducibles. Engravings, electroplates, and offset negatives usually can be purchased from the Superintendent, Departmental Account Representative Division, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20401. Private concerns and individuals should deal directly with that office, but agency requests should be submitted to OC. All requests should include a copy of the publication or its full title, issue date, number, and any other information that will help identify the material.
- (2) Storage of Reproducibles. Except for publications available for distribution by Members of Congress, agencies may request that reproducibles be returned with the printed job.

13. RESTRICTIONS

Much of the copying, duplicating, microforming, and printing procured through GPO involve commercial printers. However, service contracts and grants shall not be used as the primary source of such printing and related processes nor shall private or commercial printing be done at any Government plant (see JCP regulations and 44 U.S.C. 1102 and 1118).

- (1) Service Contracts. The procurement of writing, editing, preparation of manuscript copy, or preparation of related illustrative material may be included in contracts for

service. A contractor also may print forms and instructional materials necessary to respond to the terms of a contract, but a contractor cannot be the prime or substantial source of printing unless authorized by OC and after notifying JCP. A contractor may duplicate fewer than 5,000 units of one page or fewer than 25,000 units of more than one page for a Department or agency. Agencies shall be responsible for seeing that the limitations are not exceeded by the contractor.

- (2) Grants. Grantees are subject to the same restrictions on printing as service contractors and shall not become prime or substantial sources of printing. Thus, the inclusion of printing is prohibited unless authorized by OC and JCP is formally notified. A grantee, as part of a requirement, may duplicate fewer than 5,000 units of one page or fewer than 25,000 units of more than one page. Department or agency grants may, however, support non-government publications if grants were issued pursuant to an authorization of law and were not made primarily or substantially for printing materials. Writing, editing, preparation of manuscript copy, and preparation of related illustrative material are permitted by grantees, as may be required in the terms of the grant. Agencies shall be responsible for assuring that the limitations are not exceeded by grantees.
- (3) Private or Commercial Work. No private or commercial work may be performed at any Government plant even though the Government is reimbursed. If appropriated funds are used to create information for use in any kind of publication other than a nonprofit, scientific journal, USDA must have first rights to print and bind that information. It shall not be made available to a private publisher for first publication without prior approval of OC and notification of JCP.
- (4) Stationery and Letterhead. No embossed stationery other than that permitted in JCP regulations shall be produced or procured at Government expense. All stationery shall be designed and approved by the Creative Media Services, OC, prior to printing.
- (5) Greeting Cards. Printing or engraving of greeting cards is considered to be personal rather than an official need and shall not be done at Government expense.
- (6) Calendars. Standardized Government desk and wall calendars may be ordered from the General Services Administration. Other styles, sizes, and formats may not be printed or purchased at Government expense.

14. REQUESTS FOR PRINTING AND BINDING

The OC, Printing Services Division, shall coordinate the procurement of all composition, copying, duplicating, microforming, and printing.

The Director, Printing Services Division, shall process all requisitions to GPO for composition and printing and arrange all negotiations with GPO and Washington-based offices regarding all forms of composition and printing.

Washington-based offices of the Department shall conduct neither oral nor written negotiations with GPO or its contractors but shall conduct their negotiations with and through the OC Printing Services Division. Washington-based procedures are:

- (1) **Printing Through GPO.** Orders for printing through GPO shall be submitted to OC on Form AD-78. This form has essential specifications and serves as permanent record and should not be folded or pinned to other materials. This form will help to expedite the procurement and delivery of orders. From the AD-78, printing specialists in OC will prepare any additional forms necessary, as determined by the source from which printing will be obtained. OC will provide the agencies with access to their printing data base so they will know where printing is being obtained and will be aware of estimated costs. Special care should be taken to include correct addresses for delivery of orders. (Street addresses should be used at all times. Postal Service box addresses are unacceptable by GPO.)
- (2) **Printing in the Department Duplicating Facilities.** Orders for printing in the Department's duplicating facility shall be submitted to OC on Form AD-270. Such requests for printing shall be made only when OC and the agency determine that the size of the printing and the schedule are suitable. Agencies may receive a waiver for orders exceeding the 25,000 unit limitation for printing done in the USDA;
- (3) **Printing Guidelines.** For details on printing procedures and explanations of methods used in determining the placement of work, see the Printing Monograph, "Printing and Composition Schedules and Contract Information," available in the OC Printing Services Division.

15. ORDERING FORMS

Special attention is required for ordering overprinting of forms and for providing enough lead time for printing of all forms.

- (1) Overprinting. Some programs necessitate overprinting special information on standard forms. Such deviations--including overprinting, serial numbering, or other alterations--require prior approval of the General Services Administration, or in certain cases, the Government Accountability Office or other appropriate agencies. Agencies should request any alterations at the time the Form AD-78 is submitted to the OC, Printing Services Division.
- (2) Providing Lead Time. Orders to replenish supplies of stock forms, interleaved forms (commonly called "snapouts"), and all new forms shall be placed whenever possible with the OC, Printing Services Division, 90 days in advance for economical procurement. Orders for book-bound snapouts and continuous forms must be placed 90 to 120 days in advance.

16. SHIPMENTS OF PRINTED MATERIAL FROM PRINTER TO FIELD

GPO contractors can send bulk shipments directly to field offices. This capability should be used when it will save space, time, transportation, and other distribution costs. Distribution lists should accompany requests for printing and binding sent to OC. The Printing Services Division will work with GPO for economical routing of shipments within scheduled delivery dates.

17. DELIVERIES OF PRINTED MATERIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

GPO delivers printed materials to one central point in the Department, which is the Office of Operations, Loading Dock.

18. CONSOLIDATED ORDERS

Periodically, the Department initiates requisitions to the Public Printer for Federal publications printed by other branches of the Government. Department agencies should notify OC of their needs when requested. In most instances, agencies will be requested to submit AD-78 to the OC, Printing Services Division, for ordering the documents. A consolidated order then will be placed with GPO.

19. BLANKET CLEARANCE FOR RECURRING PRINTING

OC, at its discretion, may give written advance clearance for up to 1 year for certain recurring jobs. Application for advance clearance should be made on Form AD-59, with a copy of the manuscript or a copy of the latest edition of the recurring publication attached. Items given such clearance will be post-audited.

20. ACQUISITION, USE, INVENTORY, RENTAL, AND DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

Various methods of reporting use and inventories of printing and related equipment are described in JCP regulations. Procedures for handling these matters within the Department include:

- (1) Annual Plant Reports. The approved National Cartography and Geospatial Center, Fort Worth, Texas, will submit an annual report to the OC, Printing Services Division. This report shall be made on JCP Forms 4 and 5. Date due in OC is 5 weeks after September 30 of each year;
- (2) Advance Approvals. Purchases, rentals, exchanges, or transfers of any composition, microforming, or printing equipment requires justification, the approval of OC, and notification of JCP (see section 9d). Duplicating equipment capable of producing an image size larger than 10 3/4" x 14 1/4" requires similar approvals. Copying equipment which can produce quantities of production units comparable to duplicating equipment (5,000 units of any one page and work exceeding 25,000 production units in the aggregate of multiple pages) also requires justification and advance approval from OC ;
- (3) Justification Requirements. Agency request for equipment requires the approval of OC and notification of JCP. To save time, prior consultation with the Printing Services Division is advisable. Content of requests shall include a statement of need, a complete description (quantity, make, size, condition, cost or estimated value, etc.), location, and a statement that the needed service is otherwise unavailable. If the proposed equipment is a replacement, the request shall indicate that the old equipment will be disposed of in accordance with JCP regulations.
- (4) Completion of Transaction. When delivery and installation of approved equipment have been completed, the agency shall notify the Director, OC, Printing Services Division, in writing of completed transaction;
- (5) Excess and Surplus Property. All excess equipment must be reported and approvals for disposal must be obtained through the OC, Printing Services Division.

21. PREPARING COPY

General-procedures for submission of manuscripts for publication review are described in DR 1410.001, section 9. To facilitate handling of all types of material for printing, OC will provide information on copy or tape preparation, methods of reproduction, and costs and speed of reproduction. OC shall determine if copy is properly prepared for printing and shall make final approval of layouts, illustrations, and other materials for submission to the printer. No officer or employee of the Department, however, may agree or offer to participate in any arrangement for obtaining composition or printing by a contractor in order to avoid clearance in the Department or to avoid obtaining composition or printing through Department channels.

22. SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS PRINTED IN THE DEPARTMENT DUPLICATING FACILITY AND FIELD OFFICES

USDA is required to submit monthly to the Superintendent of Documents copies of publications printed or duplicated by USDA facilities in Washington and in the field. The National Agricultural Library and the Library of Congress also require copies of all printed and duplicated publications. Requirements for submission of copies from agency headquarter offices include:

- (1) Copies Produced in Washington, D.C. Duplicating Facility. Five copies of each publication produced by agencies in the facility in Washington will be furnished by OO to the OC, Printing Services Division. These copies will be used for reporting to the Superintendent of Documents and for supplying copies to the Library of Congress. OO furnishes copies directly to NAL. (See DR 1020-1, National Agricultural Library.);
- (2) Copies Produced Under Cooperative Agreements and Contracts. Agencies shall establish procedures to assure that six copies of each publication produced under cooperative agreement or by contract are forwarded to the OC, Printing Services Division. One copy of the six produced by cooperative agreement shall carry the notation "Produced under cooperative agreement." OC will forward two copies to NAL and four copies to the Library of Congress;

23. REGIONAL AND FIELD PRINTING AND DUPLICATING

- a. Limitations. GPO Regional Printing Procurement Offices are the authorized offices where the Department's agency regional and field offices must procure contract field printing. The following limits also apply:
 - (1) Field Printing. Materials printed in the field must be used in the geographical area of origin, unless approved by OC through the agency's information head. Agency field offices should submit justifications for use of more than one color to their Washington headquarters information director. Field facilities of staff offices should submit justifications to OC, Printing Services Division;
 - (2) Procurement. Agencies shall procure all field printing through GPO Regional Printing Procurement Offices, unless the work is authorized by Headquarters to be done in a printing plant of a Federal agency (see JCP regulations for regional boundaries and DR 1410, section 9a(7) . Should an agency desire to establish a field printing plant, justification for application shall be submitted to OC. OC will notify JCP;
 - (3) Authorized Ordering Officials. Agencies shall supply to the OC, Printing Services Division, the names of personnel authorized to sign orders for printing through GPO procurement offices. Changes in those names must be reported immediately to the Printing Services Division;
 - (4) Methods of Ordering. Procedures for ordering field printing are outlined in the Agency Procedural Handbook issued by GPO (Publication 305.1) which is available from the Printing Services Division.
- b. Required Reports. Although further detail on reports is supplied in JCP regulations, specific concerns for field offices include:
 - (1) JCP Duplicating/Copying Report. Required 30 days after the close of each quarter, this report lists individual jobs by title, quantity (number of pages and copies), date, and where done. This report pertains only to those jobs that exceed either the 5,000 or 25,000 production unit limits. No specific form is used for this report;
 - (2) OC Report to JCP. This report covers all printing procured from GPO Regional Printing Procurement Offices. Use AD-575 and include all work requested on Standard Form 1 and work requested on GPO-2511. The AD-575 shall be sent to the OC, Printing Services Division, no later than 5 weeks after September 30;

- (3) JCP Form No. 1. Printing plants, except those primarily concerned with map and/or chart reproduction, must submit JCP Form No. 1 annually, in duplicate. Due 5 weeks after September 30;
- (4) JCP Form No. 2. This form covers all transactions concerning composition, printing, binding, and blank book work which are procured directly from commercial sources. Report semiannually, in duplicate. Negative reports are not required. Due 5 weeks after March 31 and September 30;
- (5) JCP Form No. 3. Facilities, other than authorized printing plants (for example, duplicating plants), must report on this form, in duplicate, the acquisition of power-operated collating machines listed in column 2 of JCP equipment lists. Due, when appropriate, within 20 days of acquisition;
- (6) JCP Form No. 4. Printing plants primarily concerned with map and/or chart reproduction must submit annually JCP Form No. 4, in duplicate, not later than 5 weeks after September 30;
- (7) JCP Form No. 5. All printing plants must submit this form annually, in duplicate, not later than 5 weeks after September 30;
- (8) JCP Form No. 6. All units of the Department must report annually, in duplicate, all printing, binding, and related auxiliary equipment in storage using this form. Negative reports are not required;
- (9) JCP Form No. 7. All printing plants must submit this form, in duplicate, when applicable. Due within 20 days of disposal;
- (10) Notice of Transaction Authorized by JCP. This letter must be completed by The Office of Communications, Printing Services, and returned immediately upon completion of an authorized transaction.
- (11) Procedure. All reports shall be sent to The Office of Communications, Printing Services Division, by the agency's Washington office for forwarding to JCP. Copies of all JCP forms are available from the Printing Division.

24. REVIEW OF PRINTING PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRINTING PLANTS

The OC, Printing Services Division, will make periodic reviews of Department printing activities in Washington and in the field to ensure that such printing is produced in the most efficient manner and in conformance with Government laws and regulations related to printing. After each review, the Printing Division will prepare a report with recommendations for use by the agency or office involved. Installations may request a review of their operations by writing to the Director, Office of Communications, Printing Services Division.

25. WAIVERS

In certain instances GPO or its contractors cannot provide or procure printed matter needed by a Department or agency. When agencies believe they have material which meets such conditions, they may provide a justification to OC, for a waiver. When waivers are granted, agencies shall assure that the publications carry proper USDA identification, that the publications remain in the public domain and cannot be copyrighted, and that adequate quantities are printed for distribution to depository libraries.

26. TYPE AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Policies on design standards and guides for identifications, logos, and symbols are provided in the USDA Visual Information Standards, located in The Office of Communications, Creative Media and Broadcast Center, Design Services. Printing officials should consider the following specific approaches in order to meet the policies set forth in those paragraphs:

- (1) Consult with the Creative Media and Broadcast Center on selecting type for credit lines to avoid overemphasis. Generally, a reduced or subordinate size of type to that in the text and the legends will suffice;
- (2) Obtain from the Creative Media and Broadcast Center standardized designs or formats for recurring jobs that seldom or never require type changes other than in titles.

27. QUALITY LEVELS

The final responsibility for achieving printing quality is set forth by GPO in their Quality Assurance Through Attributes Program. The primary responsibility for assigning quality levels will rest with the ordering agency. The level of quality desired shall be given on AD-78. If no quality level is requested, OC, Printing Services Division will assign one and notify the agency. Levels of quality available include:

- (1) Level 1 (Best Quality). These products require the best available materials, printing, workmanship, quality control and commensurate production time. Products in this level have single or multicolor detailed halftones, very fine line drawings, and reproductions up to 300 line screen halftones. The highest quality original copy, composition, reproduction proofs, and typography are required. Supplied films must be certified suitable for printing. Maximum fidelity in detail, color, and resolution to original copy is a prime requirement and must be maintained throughout production. Finishing must be held to the highest standards of accuracy, durability, and appearance;
- (2) Level 2 (Better Quality). These products require high quality printing, materials, workmanship, quality control, and commensurate production time. Products in this level have single or multicolor 150 lines or finer halftone screen reproductions of single or multicolor subject matter. A high quality of original copy, films, composition, reproduction proofs, and typography are required. Close fidelity and resolution to original copy and/or films is required. Finishing must be held to high standards of accuracy, durability, and appearance;
- (3) Level 3 (Good Quality). These products require above average materials, printing, workmanship, quality control, and commensurate production time. Products in this level require clean, sharp printing of single or multicolor work (general process work), and halftone reproductions up to 150 line screen. Above average quality original copy, films, composition, reproduction proofs, and typography are required. Finishing must be held to above average standards of accuracy, durability, and appearance;
- (4) Level 4 (Basic Quality). These products require average quality printing, materials, workmanship, quality control, and commensurate production time. Products in this level are generally informational and have general black-and-white or line color (non-process) and occasional halftone reproductions. Average quality original copy, films, composition, proofs, and typography are required. Average fidelity and resolution to

original copy and/or films is required. Finishing must be of an accuracy, durability, and appearance that does not impair the function of the product;

- (5) Level 5 (Duplicating Quality). These products require printing with no information loss from original copy. These products may be reproduced from any readable copy. Finishing must not impair the function of the product.

28. CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS

GPO classifies a defect as any nonconformance to specific requirements. Each product class has a separate classification of defects. Defects are measurable in terms of requirements. Determinations to resolve conflicts between contractors and agencies shall be handled through OC, Printing Services Division according to procedures established by GPO. Defects include:

- (1) Critical Defects. These are defects which render the products unusable for their intended end use, for example, a missing signature in a book;
- (2) Major Defects. These are defects which would normally be spotted by the lay observer and which could justifiably result in customer complaints. A printed piece containing a major defect is still usable for the purpose intended but may make such use more difficult than it should be, for example, a badly printed page in a book but which is still readable;
- (3) Minor Defects. These are defects that would normally pass unnoticed by the lay observer in the routine use of the print and would not be the source of comment, complaint, or inconvenience unless present in large number, for example, a broken letter or a small hickey.

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