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OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION (OCR) CHARACTER POSITIONING

CATEGORY: HARDWARE STANDARD

CATEGORY: CHARACTER RECOGNITION

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Malcolm Baldrige, *Secretary*
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, Ernest Ambler, *Director***

Foreword

The Federal Information Processing Standards Publication Series of the National Bureau of Standards is the official publication relating to standards adopted and promulgated under the provisions of Public Law 89-306 (Brooks Act) and under Part 6 of Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations. These legislative and executive mandates have given the Secretary of Commerce important responsibilities for improving the utilization and management of computers and automatic data processing in the Federal Government. To carry out the Secretary's responsibilities, the NBS, through its Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, provides leadership, technical guidance, and coordination of Government efforts in the development of guidelines and standards in these areas.

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James H. Burrows, Director
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and Technology

Abstract

This FIPS PUB announces the adoption of American National Standard for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Character Positioning, ANSI X3.93M-1981, as a Federal standard. This standard specifies the nominal position with allowable tolerances of OCR characters in relation to their location to other machine readable characters or sensed marks and to the document edges.

This standard is related to FIPS PUBS 32, 40, and 85.

Key Words: Character positioning; computer systems; data entry (automatic); Federal Information Processing Standard; information processing systems; optical character recognition.

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ANNOUNCING THE STANDARD FOR

OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION (OCR) CHARACTER POSITIONING

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are issued by the National Bureau of Standards pursuant to section 111(f)(2) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127), Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973), and Part 6 of Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Name of Standard. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Character Positioning (FIPS PUB 89).

Category of Standard. Hardware Standard, Character Recognition.

Explanation. This standard specifies the nominal position with allowable tolerances, of OCR characters, Styles A and B, as specified in proposed FIPS PUB 32-1, in relation to their location to other machine readable characters or sensed marks and to the document edges.

Approving Authority. Secretary of Commerce.

Maintenance Agency. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards (Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology).

Cross Index. American National Standard for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Character Positioning (ANSI X3.93M-1981).

Related Documents.

- a. American National Standard for Character Set for Optical Character Recognition (OCR-A), ANSI X3.17-1981.
- b. American National Standard for Character Set for Optical Character Recognition (OCR-B), ANSI X3.49-1975.
- c. Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) 32-1, Character Sets for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) (proposed).
- d. Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) 40, Guideline for Optical Character Recognition Forms.
- e. Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) 85, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Inks.

Applicability. This standard is applicable to the acquisition of printers, readers, and printed forms which use OCR Style A or B characters as specified in proposed FIPS PUB 32-1:

- (1) where the interchange of machine readable information between different systems may be required, or
- (2) where these products are produced by different manufacturers.

Users of existing equipment and printed forms are encouraged to employ this standard. Equipment and forms not in accordance with this standard should be evaluated periodically by Federal agencies, because printers, readers, or forms with improperly positioned characters may seriously reduce productivity by causing misreading (errors).

Specifications. This standard adopts in whole the American National Standard for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Character Positioning (ANSI X3.93M-1981).

Qualifications. None.

Implementation Schedule. All applicable equipment and printed forms ordered on or after the date of this FIPS PUB must be in conformance with this standard unless a waiver has been obtained in accordance with the procedure described below.

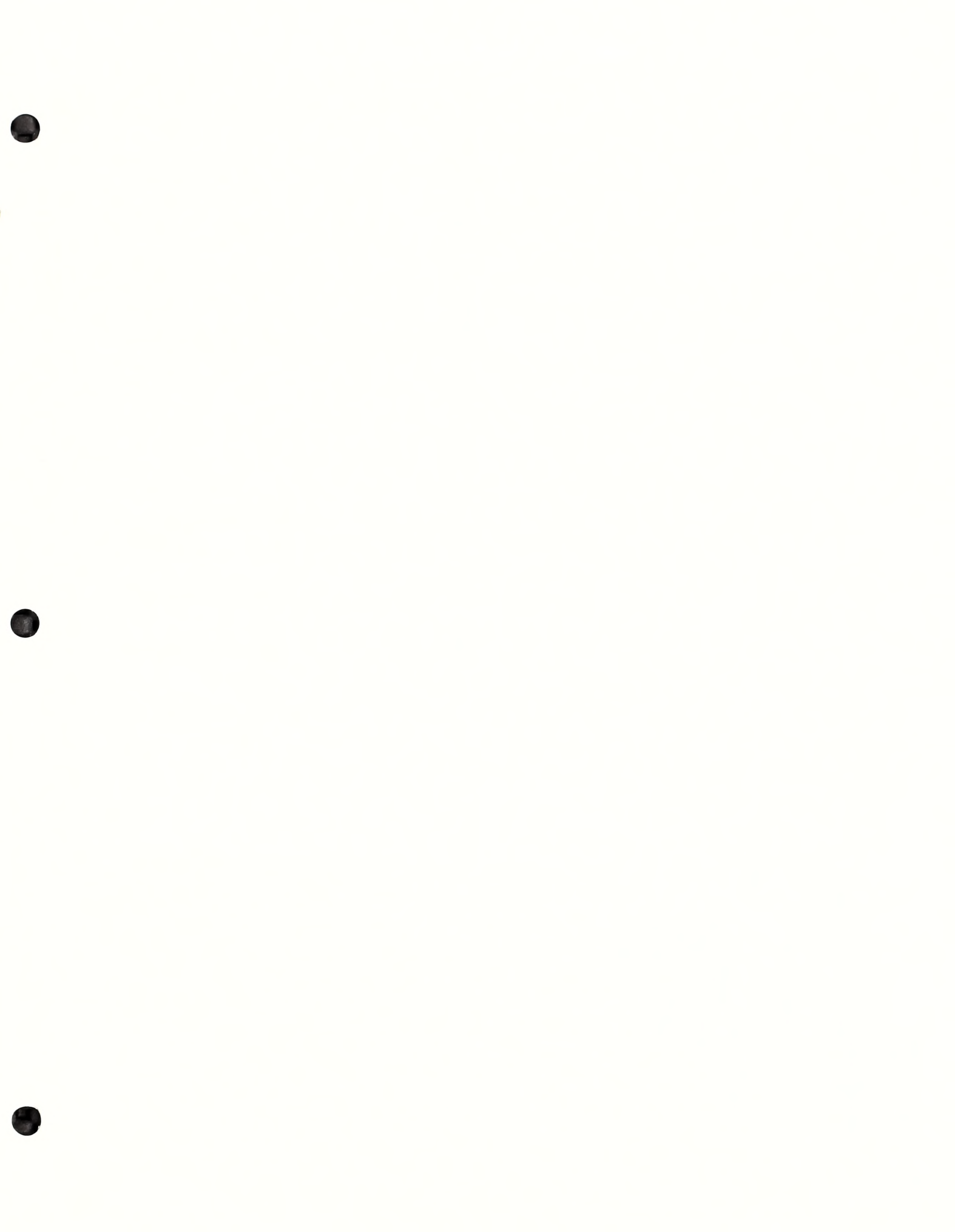
Exceptions to this standard are made in the following cases:

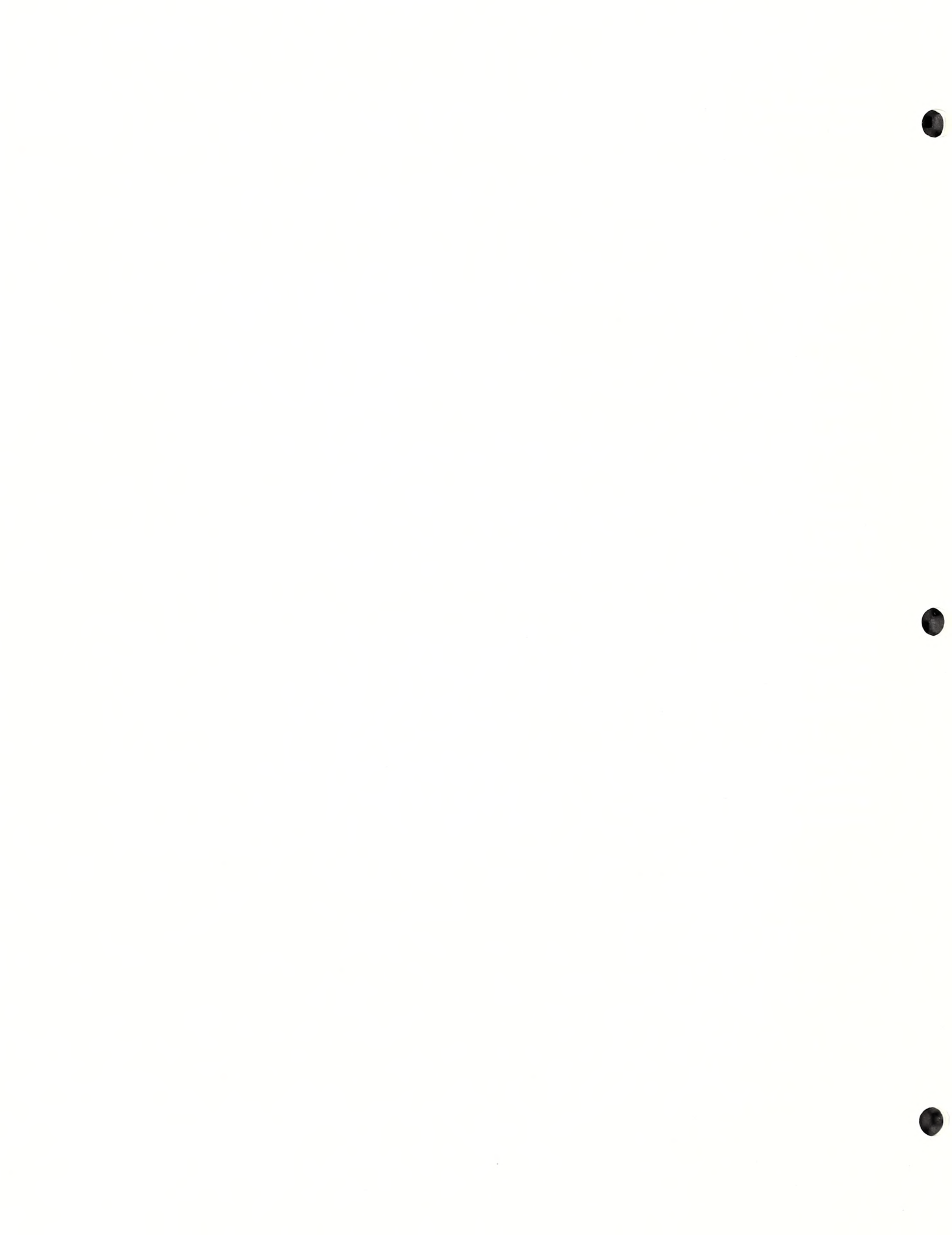
- a. For equipment installed or on order, or for printed forms in stock or on order prior to the effective date of this standard.
- b. Where procurement actions are in the solicitation phase (i.e., Requests for Proposals or Invitations for Bids have been issued) prior to the effective date of this standard.

Waivers. Heads of agencies may request that the requirements of this standard be waived in instances where it can be clearly demonstrated that there are appreciable performance or cost advantages to be gained and that the overall interests of the Federal Government are best served by granting the requested waiver. Such waiver requests will be reviewed by and are subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce. The waiver request must address the criteria stated above as the justification for the waiver.

Forty-five days should be allowed for review and response by the Secretary of Commerce. Waiver requests shall be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, and labeled as a Request for a Waiver to a Federal Information Processing Standard. No agency shall take any action to deviate from the standard prior to the receipt of a waiver approval from the Secretary of Commerce. No agency shall begin any process of implementation or acquisition of non-conforming equipment or forms unless it has already obtained such approval.

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