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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MASTER SPECIFICATION
FOR STAMP-PAD INK

FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS BOARD SPECIFICATION No. 166

This specification was officially promulgated by the Federal Specifications Board on June 30, 1924, for the use of the Departments and Independent Establishments of the Government in the purchase of stamp-pad ink.

CONTENTS

	Page
I. Types.....	1
II. Material and workmanship.....	1
III. General requirements.....	2
IV. Detail requirements.....	2
V. Method of inspection and tests.....	2
1. Method of taking samples.....	2
2. Tests.....	2
VI. Packing and marking.....	2
VII. Additional information.....	3
VIII. General specifications.....	3

I. TYPES

Stamp-pad ink shall be of the following types: Black, blue, green, red, and violet.

II. MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP

Shall be as described under General Requirements.

III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The ink shall not be inferior in any essential to one properly prepared according to the following formula: Dissolve 5 g of dye in 100 cc of 55 per cent glycerin (specific gravity of the mixture 1.1415 at 20°/20° C.). Suitable dyes are the following:

	Schultz No.
Black—Nigrosine.....	700
Blue—Soluble blue.....	539
Green—Light green.....	505
Red—Magenta.....	512
Violet—Acid violet.....	530

IV. DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

Shall be as described under General Requirements.

V. METHOD OF INSPECTION AND TESTS

1. METHOD OF TAKING SAMPLES

Two fluid ounces of the ink, in an original unopened container bearing all of the manufacturer's marks, shall be sent to the testing laboratory.

2. TESTS

Equal volumes of the sample and of the standard ink of the same color, prepared according to the above formula, shall be spread on equal areas of a new stamp pad, and impressions shall be made from them on white bond paper with a clean rubber stamp. The impressions shall be examined when fresh, and the time required for drying shall be noted. The sample shall take no longer to dry than the standard, and shall give as sharp and as intensely colored impressions.

The pads shall be exposed to atmospheric conditions for 10 days, and the tests shall then be repeated. During this time the sample shall show no more evidence of excessive hygroscopicity or of drying and caking on the pad than does the standard.

One-half of the sheet on which the impressions have been made shall be covered with black paper. The sheet shall then be exposed to direct sunlight for 48 hours, or at a distance of about 10 inches from an arc or ultra-violet light for 24 hours. The sample shall show no more evidence of fading than does the standard.

VI. PACKING AND MARKING

No requirements specified.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ink is suitable for use with rubber stamps.

VIII. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

No requirements specified.

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