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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE 21 JULY 1977	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED MILITARY STANDARD	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Classification Of Characteristics For The MX Aerospace Vehicle Equipment			5. FUNDING NUMBERS SAMSO-STD-77-5	
6. AUTHOR(S)				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) DET 10, SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS CENTER/SDC 1111 EAST MILL STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408-1621			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER BMO-TR-94-22	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT A. APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE; DISTRIBUTION IS UNLIMITED.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) This Standard establishes the classification of characteristics (COC) procedures required to support the MX aerospace vehicle equipment (AVE) program. The standard is intended for use by contractors to classify material and product characteristics as to their critical, major or minor importance.				
DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 2				
94 6 9 062			78 94-17700	
14. SUBJECT TERMS product characteristics, classify material, vehicle equipment			15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	

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BMO-TR-94-22

SAMSO-STD 77-5
77 Jul 21

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CLASSIFICATION OF CHARACTERISTICS
FOR THE
MX AEROSPACE VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

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SAMSO-STD 77-5
77 Jul 21

SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS ORGANIZATION
El Segundo, California

Classification of Characteristics for MX Aerospace Vehicle Equipment
SAMSO Standard 77-5

- 1. This SAMSO Standard is approved for use by the Space and Missile Systems Organization (AFSC).**
- 2. Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and any pertinent data which may be of use in improving this document should be addressed to: SAMSO/MNPN, Norton Air Force Base, CA 92409.**

1. SCOPE

1.1 Purpose. This standard establishes the classification of characteristics (COC) procedures required to support the MX aerospace vehicle equipment (AVE) program. The standard is intended for use by contractors to classify material and product characteristics as to their critical, major or minor importance.

1.2 Application. The extent to which this standard applies to any given contract will be established by the contract statement of work.

2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS (Not applicable)

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Characteristic. A physical, chemical, visual, functional, or any other identifiable property of a product or material.

3.2 Critical characteristic. A critical characteristic is one that judgement and experience indicate, if defective, could result in hazardous or unsafe conditions for individuals using or maintaining the product, or could result in nonperformance of the tactical function of the MX missile. A characteristic is hardness critical if the characteristic is required in order to meet the nuclear environmental requirements. Characteristics which are intrinsic to meeting the overall design requirements and which would be required independent of the nuclear environmental requirements are not considered hardness critical.

3.3 Major characteristic. A major characteristic is one other than critical that judgement and experience indicate, if defective, could result in failure, or materially reduce the usability of the product for its intended purpose.

3.4 Minor characteristic. A minor characteristic is one that judgement and experience indicate, if defective, could not materially reduce the usability of the product for its intended purpose, or is a departure from established standards having no significant bearing on the effective use or operation of the product.

4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Classification of characteristic procedure. The contractor shall develop a program to identify, control, and maintain the COC for material and products. The requirements of this standard shall apply

SAMSO-STD-77-5
77 Jul 21

to subcontractors or suppliers having design responsibility for products or equipment. The program shall provide for the COC of material and products as an integral part of the design and analysis effort. Documents which comprise the design disclosure package shall be reviewed for critical and major characteristics. The supporting rationale for critical and major characteristics shall be established. Classification shall be assigned by design engineering personnel, but will use supporting rationale from other disciplines and efforts such as:

- a. Reliability - failure mode and effects analysis
- b. Safety - hazard analysis
- c. Hardness critical item assessment
- d. Age sensitive item analysis
- e. Part application review
- f. Nondestructive inspection requirement
- g. Corrosion prevention and control.

4.2 Classification of characteristic implementation. As a minimum, COC shall be a consideration during:

- a. Preparation of manufacturing and quality planning
- b. Development of sampling plans
- c. Determination of calibration intervals
- d. Evaluation of material review actions
- e. Preservation and packaging planning.

4.3 Coordination. The COCs and rationale shall be reviewed and coordinated with the following contractor organizations:

- a. Procurement/material
- b. Reliability
- c. System safety
- d. Quality engineering

- e. Manufacturing engineering
- f. Nuclear hardness and survivability.

Updated COCs shall be reviewed by the above disciplines.

4.4 Coding. The following codes shall be used to identify COCs:

- (CC) = critical characteristics
- (HC) = critical characteristic for hardness
- (MC) = major characteristics

Minor characteristics need not have a coding.

5. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS
(Not applicable)