



# National Stock Number (NSN) Assignment Process

## *What is a NSN?*

A National Stock Number is the official label applied to an item of supply that is repetitively procured, stocked, stored, and used throughout the Federal Supply System. When a NSN is assigned to an item of supply, data is assembled to describe the item. Some data elements include information such as an item name, manufacturer's part number, unit price, and physical and performance characteristics. NSNs are an essential part of the military's logistics supply chain used in managing, moving, storing, and disposing of material.

### ***What generates a request for NSN assignment and who has the authority to make the request?***

Whenever a new weapon system is developed, the Military Service responsible for the new weapon system will identify the spares needed to maintain the weapon system throughout the life cycle. Spares that do not have NSNs assigned are identified and requests for NSN assignment are sent to the DLA Logistics Information Services by the Military Service. In turn, the DLA Logistics Information Services processes the requests by assigning new NSNs.

Other items of supply, not tied specifically to a weapon system, can generate the need for NSN assignment as well. Each Military Service has a service-unique process for identifying a requirement for new NSNs. It starts with a warfighter need for an item which generates an order. The order is typically submitted using a manufacturer's part number on a DD Form 1348-6, through the Military Service supply system. It is at the discretion of the Military Service to determine the need for NSN assignment.

Each Military Service has designated personnel with decision-making authority for NSN requests:

Air Force designated personnel are referred to as Cataloging Managers (CATMs) or Cataloging Focal Points at each Air Logistics Center

Army, Navy, and Marine Corps - have designated provisioners with this responsibility

### ***Contractors***

Contractors can solicit the Military Services to offer items for sale through various web sites:

Army:

[www.sellingtoarmy.info/](http://www.sellingtoarmy.info/)

Marine Corps:

[www.donhq.navy.mil/OSBP/activities/marine-corps.html](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/OSBP/activities/marine-corps.html)

Navy:

[www.donhq.navy.mil/OSBP/](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/OSBP/)

Air Force:

[www.airforcesmallbiz.org](http://www.airforcesmallbiz.org)

Contractors can also respond to solicitations for bid at: <https://www.fbo.gov/>