



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DEFENSE ENERGY SUPPORT CENTER
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IN REPLY
REFER TO DESC-BQ

Nov 12, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS DESC REGIONS
ATTN: QUALITY and FACILITY MANAGERS

SUBJECT: Quality Assurance Advisory (QAA) 2003-07
Filters – Product Substitution

This QAA is to provide notice that several vendors have provided filter replacements for brand name filters with generic filters. These filters, which are of the correct size and shape, fail to meet the performance requirements of API 1581 bulletin. It is incumbent on those purchasing filters or performing quality checks that the correct filter is being used. Based on current knowledge, the best way to distinguish a filter substitute is to look at the end caps where the manufacturer's name is normally located. The substituted filter will have no manufacturer's name on it. Some of the non-complying filters were received into DLA stock or shipped direct to the Service activities. Defense Supply Center Columbus is working to rid the supply system of these filters.

Another indication of a product substitution may be that the filters do not perform adequately. Where complaints of filters allowing particulate to pass through the filter or are not removing water to the requisite level, the quality investigation and validation shall include a check of the filter element being used.

If any of our contractors or service providers is found to have a suspect filter, increased surveillance of filter purchases is necessary. Should a customer complain about poor filtration and in your investigation you find a substituted filter; please advise them to return the incorrect filter to the supplier. When a substituted filter is found, please notify the undersigned at lee.Oppenheim@dla.mil or by phone at 703-767-8736.

LEE OPPENHEIM
Chief, Quality Operations Division
DESC-BQ

