



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

**AUG 02 2004**

Mr. Robert H. Fox  
Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions  
Bar Code/Standard Coding Committee  
1200 G Street NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Fox:

Thank you for your proposal to accommodate MicroPDF417 in the "Department of Defense Guide to Uniquely Identifying Tangible Items." Our consideration of your proposal was careful and deliberate. I must, however, respectfully decline your request due to concerns that acceptance of additional marking symbologies such as MicroPDF417 would have policy and operational implications on the Department that are unacceptable. The two dimensional data matrix will remain the only acceptable marking symbol recognized by MIL-STD-130L and the UID policy.

The two dimensional data matrix was selected for its broad multi-sector usability for direct part marking and label printing. It is ideally suited for UID based on capacity of the mark, scalability and durability. Supplemental marking symbols and methods may be applied, but may not be used in lieu of the 2-D Data Matrix. As an example, contact memory buttons have superior capacity compared to Data Matrix; however the infrastructure to support widespread use of contact memory buttons is cost prohibitive. Current application of contact memory buttons is limited to relatively closed-loop programs that are funding their own support infrastructure requirements. Other symbols, such as stacked bar codes also have potentially negative performance tradeoffs.

Most manufacturers already using printing techniques for marking will be able to continue using their existing equipment and their labeling software typically will encode the Data Matrix. They will need to obtain reading and verification equipment if their existing equipment does not have the capability.

The infrastructure costs of implementing the Data Matrix are acceptable given the operational impacts. The Department will not complicate the process for



the warfighter by permitting multiple UID marking symbologies. It would result in significant uncertainties with regard to finding and reading the correct mark.

The point of contact for this action is Mr. Robert Leibrandt. Please address your questions to him at (703) 695-1099 or by email at [robert.leibrandt@osd.mil](mailto:robert.leibrandt@osd.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deidre A. Lee', written in a cursive style.

Deidre A. Lee  
Director, Defense Procurement  
and Acquisition Policy