



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES

SUBJECT: Military Standard 881C, Work Breakdown Structures for Defense Materiel Items (WBS Standard)

In January 2009, the USD(AT&L) announced that the WBS Handbook (MIL-HDBK-881A) would be updated and converted to a military standard, thereby rendering its requirements mandatory. We are pleased to announce that the new WBS Standard (MIL-STD-881C) has been finalized and, effective October 3, 2011, is available for immediate use by the DoD acquisition community. All new contracts for Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) and Major Automated Information System (MAIS) programs, effective with the issuance of this memorandum, shall implement MIL-STD-881C as a contract requirement. Existing MDAPs and MAIS programs currently using the MIL-HDBK-881A WBS shall evaluate the cost impact, if any, to execute using MIL-STD-881C as a contract requirement, and implement where deemed cost effective.

The WBS Standard provides comprehensive and consistent commodity-based structures to effectively plan and execute programs and to standardize program and contract documents for management, data collection, and analysis. The Standard contains mandatory procedures that apply to MDAPs, MAIS programs, and other programs/contracts subject to DoD acquisition policy.

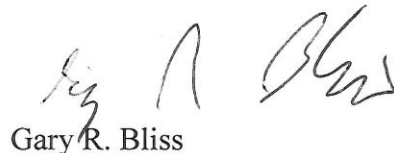
Changes to the WBS Standard include an added level of detail for most commodity areas, new structures for unmanned maritime systems, launch vehicles, and automated information systems, and expanded coverage of common elements. In addition, the Standard reflects changes in the acquisition environment since its predecessor document, the WBS Handbook, was last updated in 2005.

The WBS Standard is the result of cooperative efforts across the Department and with industry. We thank you and your staff for the time and expertise contributed and request your support in ensuring that the mandatory use of the new Standard is imposed throughout your organization.

The WBS Standard resides in the ASSIST Online database, the official source for DoD standards and specifications, at <https://assist.daps.dla.mil>. Government sponsorship of MIL-STD-881C will transfer from OUSD(AT&L)/ARA to OUSD(AT&L)/PARCA. The PARCA point of contact is Mr. Gordon Kranz, 571-256-0646.


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1/13/12

Director, Acquisition Resources and
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Gary R. Bliss
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CC:

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