

## **ISOO Notice 2021-01: Rescinding Approval of Pre-1989 General Services Administration (GSA)-Approved Containers**

---

June 29, 2021

### **Authorities**

1. Federal Specification AA-D-600
2. Federal Specification AA-F-357
3. Federal Specification AA-F-358
4. Federal Specification AA-F-363
5. 32 CFR 2001, Classified National Security Information (in particular, 32 CFR 2001.42(a), Storage)
6. This guidance pertains to Federal agencies and applicable contractors and is binding on agency actions as authorized under law, executive order, regulation, and similar authority.

### **Purpose and background**

7. GSA approved containers and vault doors have been in use since 1954. Containers manufactured prior to 1989 are past their expected lifetime and many are showing signs of wear and breakage that can cause failure of the containers. These failures can result in life safety issues, security issues, and inconvenient and expensive lockouts. Many of the original manufacturers are no longer in business and proper repair parts are often unavailable.
8. GSA removed Fedsafes GSA-approved class 5 security cabinets from the GSA Qualified Products list (QPL) through QPL-AA-F-358-16 on September 9, 2017. Although Fedsafes were removed from the QPL, the original GSA approval of the existing class 5 cabinets was not rescinded and they are permitted to remain in the field.

### **Guidance**

9. GSA has determined that agencies must phase out use of all GSA-approved security containers and vault doors manufactured from 1954 through 1989 (“black labels”) to store classified information and materials. To effectuate this, GSA has issued the following phase-out plan.
10. The phase-out plan rescinds approval over a period of four years beginning on October 1, 2024. It starts with the oldest cabinets and proceeds to the last of the black labels, as outlined below:

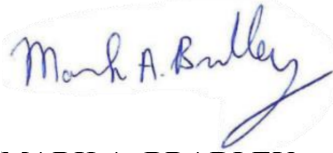
**Black Label Phase-Out Plan Chart**

GSA CLASS	FED SPEC	REV.	YEARS PRODUCED	YEARS OF SERVICE	END OF SERVICE
1	AA-F-357	A - F	1968 - 1982	46 - 60	1 October 2028
2	AA-F-357	A - F	1954 - 1970	50 - 70	1 October 2024
3	AA-F-358	A - F	1956 - 1968	52 - 69	1 October 2025
4	AA-F-358	A - F	1956 - 1968	52 - 69	1 October 2025
5	AA-F-358	A - F	1968 - 1989	31 - 60	1 October 2028
5	AA-F-363	A - B	1963 - 1989	57 - 65	1 October 2028
5	AA-D-600	A - B	1963 - 1989	57 - 65	1 October 2028
6	AA-D-600	A - C	1963 - 1989	57 - 65	1 October 2028
6	AA-F-358	A - F	1968 - 1989	52 - 60	1 October 2028

11. Before the dates listed in the chart above, agencies must take actions to replace the relevant cabinets and vault doors as needed. If you need to purchase approved replacement containers, go to <https://www.gsa.gov/buying-selling/purchasing-programs/requisition-programs/gsa-global-supply/national-stock-numbers/security-containers> for more information.

12. Agencies can easily identify the GSA-approved cabinets and vault doors produced prior to 1989 by the silver and black GSA approval label on the outside of the cabinet or vault door and by the certification labels and manufacturing dates located on the control drawer body or on the inside of the vault door. The containers should be destroyed in accordance with the appropriate destruction guidance for each entity.

Please direct any questions regarding this ISOO Notice to: [isoo@nara.gov](mailto:isoo@nara.gov).



MARK A. BRADLEY  
Director