



Tamper Evident Combat Rations



Tamper evident (TE) features will be applied to pallet loads, container loads and/or shipping cases of combat rations to protect and validate the security of the food supply.

Why Are They Needed?

Recent world events have raised significant concerns over the risk to the food supply from tampering incidents. These incidents may be biological, chemical or radiological in nature, and be intentional or unintentional. Future deployments and operations including widely dispersed joint service operations, multi-national deployments, and humanitarian missions have significantly increased the complexity and security risks to the distribution and handling of subsistence loads. Therefore, steps need to be taken to increase the security of the military supply chain and packaged military rations.

Technology:

The feasibility of incorporating TE features into combat ration distribution and packaging systems will be determined. Mechanical and/or Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) sensor-based TE systems will be explored and evaluated. These technologies include pressure-sensitive labels, multi-layer films, shrink-wrap, seals, electronic bolt tags and other container security devices. Many materials have been commercially developed that alter their appearance upon tampering. For example, they may change color, release a dye, reveal messages, shred, or detect punctures.

Key Features/Benefits:

Improved Ration Safety and Security...

protection against bioterrorism, theft, sabotage and other risks.

Increased Warfighter Confidence...features provide a visual indication of tampering or security breach and ensure a secure supply line.

Compatible with Military Distribution Systems...features will benefit all current and future packaging configurations.

Real Time Monitoring...EM/RFID-based devices or tags send out a signal indicating the container's location and time of breach.

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