

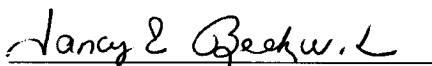
GENERAL DYNAMICS

Electric Boat

SQ/08-36
September 19 , 2008

Dear Valued Supplier,

1. The purpose of this letter is to notify our suppliers that it is critical that the correct grease or lubricant specified by the drawing or contract ordering data be used when assembling components. There have been two instances recently with two different suppliers where it was discovered that the supplier used grease that was not in accordance with the drawing or qualified to the specified grease specification.
2. The use of the proper grease or lubricant is just as important to the operation of a component as all the other attributes of the drawing or specification requirements. It is imperative that attention be given to specifying the correct lubricant and correctly applying it as specified by the drawing and contract. The lubricant specified in the contract or on the drawing was selected for very specific reasons such as;
 - Qualified for its intended service.
 - Performance life.
 - Coefficient of friction factored into torque requirements and fastener preload.
 - Compatibility with adjacent materials including non-metallics (elastomers).
 - Load and wear anti-galling characteristics.
 - Corrosion protection.
 - Environmental (storage and disposal) concerns.
 - Toxic off gassing health concerns that effect breathable oxygen in confined spaces.
 - Performance during high or low temperature operation.
 - Water wash out resistance.
 - Adequate performance during high speed operation.
3. Electric Boat requests suppliers to be aware that use of non-conforming unqualified lubricants can result in serious consequences and should not be taken lightly. When the wrong lubricant is used or misapplied it can result in;
 - Rework and costs associated with the corrective actions.
 - The component not operating or operating properly.
 - Loss of system capability.
 - Loss of mission capability.
 - Loss of life.
4. Suppliers should review their internal procedures /controls to ensure that the proper lubricants are being procured and used for their intended application in accordance with contract requirements. It is strongly suggested that in addition to your normal inspection, suppliers should confirm that the proper lubricant specified by the contract is being applied and being applied correctly. If it is found that the wrong lubricant is being used or is being applied incorrectly immediate corrective and preventive action are required. Should previously shipped products be affected, it is also requested that you notify your customer as soon as possible so that corrective actions can be taken.
5. Caution should be taken to ensure during contract review and material ordering that the correct lubricant is being specified and verified at receipt and during assembly. Any questions with drawing or contract requirements, if they are not clear, should be forwarded to the procuring activity on a Vendor Information Request (VIR) for resolution or ordering data clarification.
6. Any questions concerning the above can be forwarded to Gary Cabral of Electric Boat Supplier Quality at 860-433-8646 or E-mail gcabral@gdeb.com.


Nancy E. Beckwith
Manager of Supplier Quality

Approved for Public Release

Xc:
All Active Suppliers
Data Bank
NGSB