

# Policy: Repainting of GSA Approved Security Containers

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NOTES

GSA Approved security containers and vault doors may be repainted as part of a repair procedure in accordance with the procedures for opening and repair described in Federal Standard 809A.

GSA Approved security containers and vault doors that exhibit significant wear or damage to the paint finish without damage to the container or door may be repainted. The painting shall be documented in the same manner as a repair as described in Federal Standard 809A.

GSA Approved security containers and vault doors shall not be repainted to match office decors.

When containers or doors are repainted, they shall be painted in the same color as the original paint finish. The paint and processes used to repaint the containers or doors shall result in a textured finish.

## BACKGROUND

The General Services Administration (GSA) recognizes that it is not technically possible or economically feasible to develop a container that prevents unauthorized entry. Given sufficient time and materials, any container may be entered. When the item being protected is information, physical removal of materials may not be necessary and the knowledge of its loss may be equally important.

NOTES

GSA Approved security equipment is intended to prevent unauthorized access to information for a reasonable period considering existing technology and methods that may be used to gain access. The amount of time that is considered reasonable varies and is categorized by the entry methods. Methods that are not concerned with physical evidence of the attack are designated as forced entry methods. Methods that leave no physical evidence are designated as surreptitious entry methods. Methods that hide physical evidence of an unauthorized entry either through replacement of component parts or repair are designated as covert entry methods. Security equipment is intended to give evidence that an unauthorized entry has been attempted or made if the methods used are designed to disguise the loss of the information,

Since their inception, the Federal specifications promulgated by GSA for containers and vault doors used for the protection of classified national security information have included requirements for specialized, textured paint finishes. The paint finish is one component of the container's designed resistance to covert entry. While the paint provides no physical barrier, the intent of this requirement is to increase the time and effort involved in concealing an attempted or actual unauthorized penetration of the security container or vault door. The increase in the time required to disguise the entry may prevent use of the method and increase the chances that the unauthorized entry is discovered.