

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Washington, DC 20405

August 28, 2019

GSA BULLETIN FMR B-47
LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

TO: Heads of Federal agencies

SUBJECT: Disposal of Law Enforcement Equipment

1. What is the purpose of this bulletin? This bulletin provides guidance on the disposal of certain items of law enforcement equipment intended to protect the wearer or user involved in law enforcement activities. This bulletin does not apply to the disposal of firearms (refer to FMR 102-40.175).

2. When does this bulletin expire? This bulletin remains in effect until cancelled.

3. What is the background?

Certain categories of personal property are used almost exclusively within the Federal Government by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) or related activities. Normally, when items of personal property are no longer needed by the acquiring agency, they would be reported to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) as excess, per Federal Management Regulation (FMR) Part 102-36, for reuse by other agencies or eligible donees.

As some LEA items are designed to protect the safety of their user from lethal hazards, any defect, degradation, or obsolescence related to these items could have harmful, even deadly, consequences. FMR § 102-36.220(b)(10) exempts agencies from reporting personal property that is deemed to be “dangerous to the public health and safety.” LEA items designed for the protection of the wearer or user, such as body armor, ballistic vests, riot shields and other similar protective equipment, should not be reported to GSA due to dangers to the public health and safety associated with improper or unintended use.

LEA assets designed to protect the LEA wearer or user from lethal dangers will not be processed in the normal manner through the GSA disposal process, unless the holding agency identifies clear safeguards the assets are still effective for their manufactured purpose. GSA recognizes that assets that are no longer effective for their manufactured purpose that have been physically marked and designated as such may serve a purpose in activities such as tactical training and fit-testing. Before reporting these assets in GSAXcess, the holding agency should contact its regional GSA representative (<https://www.gsa.gov/node/2038>).

4. What should I do as a result of this bulletin? Agencies should not report LEA equipment that is designed for the protection of the wearer or user where the holding agency cannot ensure its safety and/or effectiveness.

GSA recommends:

- a. The holding agency consider using its abandonment and destruction authority (FMR 102-36.305 *et seq.*) to dispose of LEA property that may be dangerous to public health and safety. These items will not be transferred, donated, or sold by GSA in the normal process if the holding agency cannot attest to the suitability or safety of these items;
- b. If seeking to obtain these LEA assets for tactical training, fit-testing, or other similar non-hazardous use, the holding agency should contact the National Utilization Officer (NUO) at the holding agency to arrange a direct transfer of assets as authorized by FMR § 102-36.145. The list of NUOs is available at www.gsa.gov/nuo.
- c. If your agency generates LEA assets having utility for non-lethal training or testing, please contact the points of contact in Section 5, below, if you need assistance conducting a direct transfer of assets.
- d. Assets transferred under the provisions in paragraphs (b) or (c) above must be clearly physically marked and identified in documentation to ensure the assets are not used in dangerous situations.

If your agency has questions as to the applicability of this guidance to a certain type of property, please contact your local GSA Area Property Officer (www.gsa.gov/areapropertyofficers).

5. Who should I contact for further information? For further information on this guidance, or disposal policy, you may contact Robert Holcombe, at robert.holcombe@gsa.gov; or for operational concerns you may contact Susanne Combs, at susanne.combs@gsa.gov.

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