

# **DEFENSE REUTILIZATION AND MARKETING SERVICE RETURN TO MANUFACTURER PROGRAM**

## **A UNIQUE AND VITAL MISSION –**

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) is a branch of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in the Department of Defense. The DRMS disposes of excess property received from the military services. The inventory changes daily and includes thousands of items: from air conditioners to automobiles, clothing to computers, paints to greases, and much more.

Property is first offered for reutilization within the Department of Defense (DoD), transferred to other federal agencies, or donated to state and local governments and other qualified organizations or sold to the public. The National Sales Office in Battle Creek, Michigan, sells large quantities of high value property such as aircraft parts and industrial equipment, primarily through sealed bid. Auctions are most commonly held at regional or zone sales. This property is lotted in quantities large enough to attract small businesses, and includes property such as furniture, clothing and appliances.

## **DRMS KEEPS THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND**

DRMS manages the disposal of hazardous property for DoD activities, maximizing the use of each item and minimizing associated environmental risks and costs.

In June 1996, DRMS formally implemented a program to return hazardous property to a manufacturer. The program objective is to help reduce hazardous waste disposal cost for Department of Defense (DoD) activities that turn-in surplus hazardous material to Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices (DRMO).

The Return to Manufacturer procedures were implemented in support of the DoD waste minimization policy and to recycle the Department of Defense (DoD) surplus material turned-in to its field offices for distribution. The procedures are restricted to surplus hazardous materials that have survived the reutilization, transfer, donations, sales processes of DRMS. Benefits to DoD include: cost savings from reduced hazardous waste disposal cost; less hazardous material going to landfills and incinerators; beneficial reuse of such materials as solvents, paints, acids, engine parts, compressed gas cylinders, greases and oils.

Here's how the program works. The manufacturer cited on the product's Material Safety Data Sheet is contacted and offered the return of the item for recycling, at no cost to the

manufacturer. If the original manufacturer shows no interest in the property, then we will contact other known manufacturer or recyclers.

The decision to return property to the manufacturer is based on the cost of transportation versus the cost of disposal as hazardous waste. The DoD generating activity pays the transportation cost and the manufacturers must sign a Statement of Intent/Terms and Conditions agreement stipulating they must comply with applicable Federal, state and local regulations for storage, disposal, etc. of hazardous property. The DRMS Environmental office (Mr. James Phillips) ensures that all manufacturers' facilities are in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations prior to them receiving the property.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

DRMS has achieved significant results since implementing the RTM program. Since the RTM program inception of June '96, DRMS has saved the DoD, through disposal cost avoidance, approximately \$12.8 million.

We expect savings to continue to grow from this hazardous material recycling program, as more Government activities and companies pursue recycling opportunities in lieu of waste disposal.

For more information:

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