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PROPOSED SPECIFICATION CHANGES
FOR M/40-X RIFLES TO BE FURNISHED
ON CONTRACT NO. DA-19-027-010-7341

In connection with the starting of work to produce M/40R-31 rifles as specified under the subject contract, R&D has pointed out that there are two significant changes in specifications which they have had under consideration. It is their opinion that the proposed changes will effect worthwhile improvements in the M/40X, particularly with respect to endurance and the maintaining of consistent performance under extensive firing. For this reason, it has been recommended by R&D that the proposed changes be incorporated in the rifles to be furnished on this contract even though the variations to the regular M/40X specifications have not yet been authorized for regular production and were not in effect at the time the contract was negotiated. The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Heat treatment of the Receiver. Because of a certain amount of difficulties experienced with the M/40X in the field, it is proposed to add a heat treatment of the Receiver. It is expected that the addition of this heat treatment also will involve other off-setting changes in the Receiver process so that there should be very little, if any, effect on product cost. A change of this type normally does not require Operations Committee approval per se the Ordnance specifications applicable to this contract cover details of hardness requirements for individual components. R&D and Production personnel feel that this change would be desirable in the M/40X as a product improvement item. Whether or not it should be specifically required for all rifles on this contract, therefore, seems only to be a question as to whether the change can be made effective without delays which might affect delivery commitments.

2. Chrome plating of Connector, Sear and Safety Gears. It is proposed to chrome plate these components in order to improve wear characteristics and performance of the rifle under conditions of extensive use. Chrome plating will involve special finishing before plating, additional inspection, etc., which will result in a small increase in factory cost of \$1.576 per rifle.

This change would make components of the rifle, particularly the receiver, different than the samples furnished to the Ordnance Department for which approval was obtained for the M/40X as a standard procurement item. Whether or not the change would need to be specifically cleared with Ordnance before making it effective on a contract which they had been solicited for is a question which is being considered.