

10444 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

unit package is the shipping container, additional labeling may be applied."

A 6505 (drugs, biologicals and official reagents) review committee was established to review all stocklisted drug items by therapeutic category and make recommendations concerning their retention in or deletion from the Federal Supply System. The committee consists of the Staff Director, Defense Medical Materiel Board (DMMB), and the Pharmacy Consultants of the three services. Criteria used by the committee include cost, demand data, duplication, effectiveness classification, shelf life, and special military requirements (i.e., kits and assemblies). To date, 1,003 items have been reviewed; 844 items remain standard; 141 were reclassified to limited standard, and 18 were deleted. Five items previously limited standard have been reinstated to standard. Final action has not been completed on the remaining 278 items. They have been reviewed by the committee and their recommendations are being evaluated. To assure a continuing review, the Staff Director, DMMB, and the individual item monitors will continue this program for each new item presented for classification.

Continuous effort at all echelons within the Department is being made to reduce the cost and improve the procurement and supply of drugs. Action is currently underway to revise