

# Department of Veterans Affairs

# Memorandum

**Date:** February 17, 2017

**From:** Chief, Engineering Service 138 (A)

**Subj:** Brand Name or Equal Documentation – Construct VHA/VBA Addition #541-371

**To:** VISN 10 Network Contracting Manager  
Attn: Don Tam – Construction Procurement Manager, VISN 10

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to document the salient characteristics required of the “Brand Name or Equal” products.
2. The follow are the salient characteristics of the “Brand Name or Equal” products. Alternate products will be accepted, but they are required to meet or exceed these requirements to comply with the design.
  - 1) Face brick by Glen Gery. Specified brick is used on the adjacent Learning Exchange building and therefore an aesthetic match is critical. Alternate brick needs to match in color, size, material, and texture.
  - 2) Brick anchors and accessories by Hohmann a Bernard. Alternate product needs to be similar in strength, style, and material.
  - 3) Solid surface material by Dupont. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, composition, style, and finish.
  - 4) Decorative resin panel by 3-Form. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, composition, style, and finish.
  - 5) Plastic Laminate HPDL by Wilsonart. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, and wear and stain resistance factors.
  - 6) Door and Drawer Pulls by Liberty Hardware. Alternate hardware needs to be similar in shape, size, material, and finish.
  - 7) Self-Closing Hinges by Blum. Alternate product needs to be similar in function, quality, and durability testing results.
  - 8) Cabinet Locks by National Cabinet Lock. Product listed to establish quality and function. Alternate products of similar function and quality will be accepted.
  - 9) Box Drawer Slides by Accuride. Alternate product needs to meet or exceed load rating and be of similar quality and materials.
  - 10) Cabinet Shelf Support Pins by Knappe and Vogt. Product listed to establish quality and function. Alternate products of similar function and quality will be accepted.

- 11) Support Bracket by A&M Hardware. Product listed to establish quality and function. Alternate products of similar function and quality will be accepted.
- 12) Grommets by Doug Mockett. Product listed to establish quality and function. Alternate products of similar function and quality will be accepted.
- 13) Brackets and Accessories for DRP Panels by 3 Form. Alternate products need to be similar in size, aesthetics, material, and finish.
- 14) Roofing and Siding Panels by Alcoa. Alternate material needs to be of similar materials, have similar colors available, meet or exceed the material gage, and have similar profiles.
- 15) Roofing and Siding Panels by Alcoa. Alternate material needs to be of similar materials, have similar colors available, meet or exceed the material gage, and have similar profiles.
- 16) EPDM Roofing by Carlisle. Alternate material needs to be of the same material, meet or exceed the product warranty, and meet or exceed material thickness.
- 17) Flashing and Sheet Metal by York. Alternate material needs to meet or exceed material gage and quality of construction.
- 18) Roof Specialties by Metal Era. Product listed to establish quality and function. Alternate products of similar function and quality will be accepted.
- 19) Expansion Joint Cover Assemblies by Construction Specialties. Product listed to establish style, quality, materials, and construction. Alternate products need to meet or exceed quality and function.
- 20) Access Doors and Frames by Acudor. Alternate product needs to be similar in size, material gage, and construction.
- 21) Accordion Folding Door by Won-Door. Alternate product needs to meet or exceed performance and function and be of similar materials.
- 22) Aluminum Framed Entrances and Storefronts by Kawneer. Alternate product needs to be of similar quality, material and material gage, similar profile and thermal performance, and warranty.
- 23) Glazed Aluminum Curtain Walls by Kawneer. Alternate product needs to be of similar quality, material and material gage, similar profile and thermal performance, similar internal drainage system, and meet or exceed warranty.
- 24) Pass Thru Window Assembly by Hafele. Alternate product needs to be of similar top hung function with no bottom track. Product also needs to be of similar materials, quality, and performance ratings.
- 25) Door Hardware by Multiple Manufacturers. Manufacturers are listed to establish function, quality, and aesthetics. Alternate manufacturers will be accepted.
- 26) Door Operator, Power Assist by Stanley. Alternate manufacturer needs to meet or exceed performance ratings and have similar controls.
- 27) Glazing by Viracon. Product is specified to establish color, light transmittance, reflectance, thermal values, and light to solar gain values. Alternate product needs to match color and meet or exceed the specified performance values. The performance values are critical because the mechanical system is sized based on this performance and the Green Globes certifications could also be impacted.
- 28) Ceramic Porcelain Tile by Crossville. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and finish.

- 29) Tile Grout, Mortar, and Waterproofing by TEC. Product is specified to establish performance. Alternate product needs to meet or exceed performance values as well as be approved for the tile and substrate that it will be used on/with.
- 30) Acoustic Ceilings and Trim by Armstrong. Alternate manufacturer needs to meet or exceed NRC, CAC, light reflectance, and mildew resistance ratings, as well as have similar texture and appearance.
- 31) Vinyl Tile by Centiva. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and finish, and slip/performance ratings.
- 32) Vinyl Composition Tile by Armstrong. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and finish, and slip/performance ratings.
- 33) Recycled Rubber Tile by ToMarket. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and finish, and slip/performance ratings.
- 34) Rubber Base, Stair Treads, Transitions by Johnsonite. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and finish, and slip/performance ratings.
- 35) Vinyl Sheet Flooring by Teknoflor. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and finish, and slip/performance ratings.
- 36) Carpet by JAJ Invision. Material was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to be similar in color, pattern, style, and performance ratings.
- 37) Paint by Sherwin Williams. Color was selected as part of an overall finish palette. Alternate product needs to match selected color, sheen, and VOC values, as well as durability and performance specifications.
- 38) Edge Guard/trim for Wallcovering by Schluter. Alternate product needs to be similar profile and finish.
- 39) Toilet Compartments by Bobrick. Alternate product needs to be similar materials, performance ratings, colors, and assembly.
- 40) Cubical Curtain Track by AR Nelson. Alternate product needs to be of similar materials and have similar performance values.
- 41) Handrail and Corner Guards by Construction Specialties. Alternate product needs to meet or exceed strength and durability values and be of similar color, profile, and materials.
- 42) Impact Resistant Wallcoverings by Construction Specialties. Alternate product needs to be similar material, thickness, texture, color, and stain resistance.
- 43) Fire Extinguisher Cabinet by Larsen. Alternate product needs to be of similar style, materials, color, and finish.
- 44) Toilet and Bath Accessories by Bobrick, Koala, and Excel. Alternate products need to be similar size, materials, finish, and material gage.
- 45) Base Bid Air Foil System by Construction Specialties. Alternate product needs to be of similar profile, size, material gage, and finish.
- 46) Electric Traction Elevators by Otis. Alternate product needs to match performance specifications including size, speed, and weight limit. Alternate product needs to be compatible with designed pit size, structural framing, and elevator overrun.

- 47) Wall Sconce by Shaper. Alternate product needs to be of a comparable style, color, material, and have a similar light distribution.
- 48) Downlight by Portfolio. Alternate product needs to be of a comparable style, color, material, and have a similar light distribution.
- 49) Night Light by Alkco. Alternate product needs to be of a comparable style, color, material, and have a similar light distribution.
- 50) Structural Fasteners by Hilti. Alternate product needs to meet or exceed the structural ratings of the specified product.

3. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Nick Carrozza at extension 821-6179 or Dan Ramer at 821-6166.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DANIEL W. RAMER". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'D' and a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Daniel W. Ramer  
Chief, Architecture and Design