

Digesting MEL

Mel's Mysteries

DINER

ANSWERS SERVED DAILY!



It's a hard-boiled fact—the Army must either repair or replace deteriorating or failing equipment to maintain readiness.

But sometimes the choice to repair equipment may not be economically smart. To avoid wasteful repairs, the Army sets maintenance expenditure limits (MELs) on equipment.

A MEL is the maximum dollar amount that can be spent on a one-time repair to return that major item of equipment to its mission capable status.

The MEL is a percentage of the current unit replacement cost for the equipment. The total cost for repair can't exceed the value of the repaired item when it's compared to a like item or equivalent new item.

Note: Although many types of equipment have MELs, you'll find a list of exceptions in Chap 4-6 of AR 750-1, *Army Materiel Maintenance Policy*.

To help you get a handle on MELs, we're sharing a list of the most commonly asked questions.

FAQs You've Asked



Look in FED LOG under Folders. Choose Army in the dropdown box and SSNS for the MEL report.

You can also get the MEL report in the Logistics Support Activity's (LOGSA) Logistics Information Warehouse (LIW): <https://liw.logsa.army.mil>

Look under Queries and Reports, Catalog, then select SSN Reports and MEL Planning Information.



First, find the LIN by cross-referencing that NSN in LIW. Under Queries and Reports, choose Catalog and SB 700-20 Search, or under SSN Reports choose MEL Planning Information. A third source for this information is FED LOG. Choose Folders, Army, SSNS and mel.txt. Review the list carefully, because there can be more than one NSN associated with a LIN.



In the TB for that item or piece of equipment. If you know the TB number, enter it in the ETMs Online section of LIW and review or download the TB.

If you don't know the TB number, enter "maintenance expenditure limit" in the ETMs Online title search block and scroll down the results list to find the TB. If there is no TB listed for that item, contact the life cycle management command (LCMC) POC for that NSN.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SB 710-1-1?

The Standard Study Number System (SSNS) replaced SB 710-1-1 in 2003. The SSNS is the main source for data used in calculating MELs. It's updated monthly.



WHY ISN'T MY EQUIPMENT LISTED IN THE MEL REPORT?

It must have both an active line item number (LIN) published in SB 700-20, a valid National Stock Number (NSN) and be a Class VII major item. If your equipment has these criteria but isn't listed in the current MEL report, contact the item's LCMC item manager.

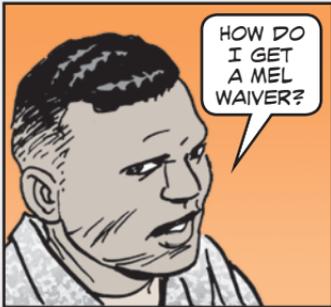
To find the item manager in LIW, click on [Links](#), [AMC Sites](#), then [AMC Commodity Manager Locator](#) and enter the end item's NSN. Where you see an SOS (source of supply) showing a red "YES," follow that line over to [ANALYST CODE/POC](#). Click on the link for the end item manager's contact information. If no POC is listed, contact the LCMC responsible for managing that equipment.



WHAT PRICE DO I USE IN MEL CALCULATIONS?

When referring to the MEL report, the **forecasted MEL price** is the dollar limit authorized for repair of that item. This price was determined by the latest AMC comptroller inflation indices and various database prices for the current fiscal year.

The forecasted MEL dollar value is the price you use for the MEL. If the price of repair exceeds the MEL forecasted value, repair is not authorized. The unit is authorized to turn in that item unless an authorized and signed waiver is granted to exceed the MEL.



HOW DO I GET A MEL WAIVER?

Send the item's NSN, LIN and your complete contact information to the MEL monitor at LOGSA. Contact Annette Harris, DSN 645-9600, (256) 955-9600, or email: annette.harris1@us.army.mil

