

Celebrating 150 Years | 1861-2011

NewsRelease

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GPO'S PASSPORT FACILITY EARNS GLOBAL MANUFACTURING AND QUALITY CERTIFICATION

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) achieved a major milestone in the production of the world's most secure document, the U.S. passport. GPO's secure production facility on the grounds of Stennis Space Center in Mississippi has achieved ISO 9001 certification. ISO is the International Organization for Standardization and the world's largest developer of international standards used by government, business and new information technology companies and agencies. These globally recognized standards of excellence for production and quality processes assure customers that the agency or company meets their expectations. Since 2008, when the secure production facility began implementing ISO procedures and process improvements, the average of material waste dropped from 5.9% to 0.5% today. One example of an ISO process that was implemented is the installation of digital access to the standard operating procedures on touch pad laptops to provide quick and easy access on the production room floor. Organizations and companies in 176 countries have attained this status, some of which include The Coca-Cola Company, The Ford Motor Company and Xerox Corporation.

More information on ISO: www.iso.org

"This is a tremendous achievement for our employees and GPO to be certified alongside iconic American companies," said Public Printer Bob Tapella. "I want to praise the leadership of GPO's Security & Intelligent Documents Managing Director Steve LeBlanc for leading the effort of GPO attaining this status of excellence. Steve's continued commitment in seeking the highest standards available in the production of our nation's passport has led to this certification."

"I want to congratulate our 46 employees at the secure production facility in Mississippi for their hard work and commitment to the production of the passport," said GPO's Managing Director for Security & Intelligent Documents Steve LeBlanc. "Since GPO opened the Mississippi facility in 2008, employees there have made that facility a model of high standards and high quality manufacturing processes."

GPO has been producing passports for the Department of State since the 1920s at its secure facility in Washington, D.C. In 2008, to meet the rising demand by American people for passports and the need for an alternative production facility, GPO opened this second secure production facility in Mississippi. In 2005, GPO produced the first electronic passport (e-Passport) and switched to producing all e-Passports in 2007. GPO employees produced more than 23 million passports in the last two years; about seven million of those have been produced at the Mississippi secure production facility. The DC facility is on track to attain the ISO 9001 certification in FY 2011.



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