

# Mil Spec—What Does it Mean?

Ads for both the Steiner and Fujinon binoculars that we found on the Internet and in company advertising brochures use statements like “built to military specs,” “meets Mil Spec,” or simply “Mil Spec.” Of course, the implication is that these binoculars are built to some specific military design or standard. So is this true? Well, yes and no. The binoculars are certainly not built to a military design specification, but they do meet certain parts of a military standard related to environmental testing. That standard is Mil-Std-810E, which defines more than 20 parameters that products supplied to the military might need to meet, depending on their use. Each of the test binoculars meets or exceeds a few of the listed parameters. For instance, the Fujinon FMTRC-SX bino claims to meet or exceed the listed standards for waterproofness and shock resistance, while the Steiner Commander V claims to meet or exceed the standards for waterproofness.