

CHAPTER 19 / World War II Rationing

Many items that we consider basic to our daily needs were rationed or limited during World War II. To purchase an extra pair of shoes, for example, people had to complete this application. Examine the application and then answer the following questions.

- (1) Why were shoes rationed during the war?
- (2) Do you think you would have been eligible for the "special shoe stamp" that would permit you to buy new shoes?
- (3) Are there any items today that are rationed by the government? Do you need to think carefully before purchasing or using any items in your life?

OPA FORM R-1703 FORM APPROVED BUDGET BUREAU NO. 08-R323 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL SHOE STAMP		1. YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPEWRITE) _____ ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER) _____ CITY AND STATE _____ OCCUPATION _____		YOUR WAR RATION BOOK No. _____
IMPORTANT Read these instructions before filling in this form <p>This application is to be used only by a person who would suffer serious hardship if he were unable to buy a pair of shoes in addition to his regular ration.</p> <p>There are not enough shoes to give everyone all the shoes he wants, but there are enough for all who really need them. Stop and think, before you complete this form. Have you any shoes that will meet your needs? Do not make this application unless you can qualify under all four of the following rules:</p> <p>(1) You do not have a valid War Ration Shoe Stamp (or Special Shoe Stamp) and no member of your family has a War Ration Shoe Stamp that you can use.</p> <p>(2) No employer or institution furnishes you with shoes that will meet your needs.</p> <p>(3) The shoes are needed for occupational or general wear—not merely for maintaining personal appearance or for sportswear.</p> <p>(4) You have no more than one pair of shoes in wearable or repairable condition that will meet your needs.</p>		2. DESCRIBE THE KIND OF SHOES YOU NEED TO BUY: _____ _____ _____		
4. How many pairs of shoes do you own? Include all street, dress, sport, work, athletic, evening, and play shoes that you can wear or that can be repaired. (Include only shoes made in whole or in part of leather or with rubber soles.)		3. STATE THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE SHOES ARE REQUIRED AND WHY YOU NEED ANOTHER PAIR AT THIS TIME: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
TYPE OF SHOES (a)		TOTAL NUMBER OF PAIRS OWNED (b)		HOW MANY PAIRS CAN BE WORN FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AS SHOES YOU NOW REQUEST (c)
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT:				
1. I do not have a valid War Ration Shoe Stamp or Special Shoe Stamp and no member of my immediate family (related to me by blood, marriage, or adoption and living in the same household) has a War Ration Shoe Stamp that I can use.				
2. No employer or institution furnishes me with the shoes for which I am applying, and that all the statements and answers I have made on this application are true and complete. I understand that I am to use the requested shoe stamp to buy shoes only of the type and for the purpose stated in this application.				
Any person who makes any false statement or false representation in this application is subject to criminal prosecution under the laws of the United States.	SIGNATURE OF OR NAME OF APPLICANT _____		DATE _____	
	SIGNATURE OF PERSON ACTING FOR APPLICANT _____		RELATIONSHIP (CHECK ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT <input type="checkbox"/> GUARDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER AGENT	

Courtesy Stan Cohen, Missoula