

**June 5, 2000**

**EOD-69  
DDOD-75**

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE**

**ALL PACKAGED COMMODITY AND BAG SUPPLIERS  
PACKAGING SYSTEM QUALITY**

Effective immediately, suppliers of all packaged commodities utilized under domestic and foreign food assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and suppliers of bags purchased under Announcement KC-P-BAGS-306 and/or Announcement BGGR4, and applicable amendments, are responsible for ensuring and certifying that all packaging meets the requirements and specifications outlined in the applicable announcements. Suppliers are required to maintain documented quality verification, including independent analytical test results, verifying that the packaging meets the requirements in the purchase announcement; and will be held responsible for any packaging that does not comply with contract requirements.

Laboratory testing solely by Michigan State University (MSU) is no longer required. Commercial private testing laboratories or any university, including MSU, may be utilized provided they are capable of performing all of the tests specified in the applicable announcement. Costs associated with the testing are at the supplier's expense. Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) maintains the right to verify and audit test results at random, unannounced intervals.

Suppliers providing commercially packaged and labeled items for domestic programs are exempt from these requirements provided the packaging has a history of successful use and customer acceptance in the retail or wholesale commercial market. Instructions for alternative packaging approval can be found in the applicable announcement.

CCC will continue to review and, where necessary, improve the quality of packaging utilized under domestic and foreign food assistance programs.

Please contact Dean Jensen, Chief, Contract Management Branch at (202) 720-2115, with questions or concerns.

Acting Deputy Administrator,  
Commodity Operations