

USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

PC8

PROCESSED CEREALS FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

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FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS**

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Part 1 COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

Section 1.1 COMMODITIES

A. Quality of the Commodity

The commodity delivered shall meet the requirements as specified in the Commercial Item Descriptions (CID) available from the websites provided:

- (1) Cereals, Rolled Oats, Type I – CID A-A-20090C (February 9, 2004) at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20090c.htm>
- (2) Cereals, Wheat, Quick-Cooking and Instant, Type I (enriched farina) and Type III (rolled wheat) – CID A-A-20108A (September 25, 1997) at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20108a.htm>, except as may be augmented as indicated below:

Farina – Iron Enrichment Standards

Item	Minimum Per Pound	Maximum Per Pound
Iron, in form of Ferric Phosphate <u>1/</u> , <u>2/</u> , mg	90	140
<u>1/</u> Must conform to the requirements outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex. <u>2/</u> As an alternate, reduced iron in the form of electrolytic of hydrogen reduced iron may be used.		

- (3) Bulgur may be of any of the classes of wheat as defined in the “Official United States Standards for Grain,” except mixtures of wheat of contrasting classes. The standard is available at: <http://151.121.3.117/reference-library/standards/standards.htm>. The wheat shall not contain more than 4.0 percent damaged kernels and shall meet the requirements as set forth below:

Chemical and Physical Requirements

Item	Requirements ¹	
	Minimum	Maximum
Moisture	--	11.5%
Protein (N x 5.7) ²	9.3%	--
Crude Fiber	--	2.3%
Ash	--	1.8%
Foreign Material: Total ³	--	0.2%
Material Except Other Grains ⁴	--	0.05%
Scorched particles (whole or pieces of kernels)	--	0.2%
Ungelatinized particles (whole or pieces of kernels)	--	1.0%
Whole processed kernels remaining on U.S. Standard No. 8 Woven-Wire-Cloth Sieve	--	4.0
Material that will pass through U.S. Standard No. 8 Woven-Wire-Cloth Sieve	80.0	--
Material that will pass through U.S. Standard No. 14	--	18.0

¹ All percentages are on the basis of weight.

² These limiting values are on a moisture-free basis.

³ All material other than wheat.

⁴ Including grain hulls either attached or detached. Any hulls attached to product should be detached before inclusion in the hull fraction.

Woven-Wire-Cloth Sieve		
Material that will pass through U.S. Standard No. 30 Woven-Wire-Cloth Sieve	--	0.9

- B. All wheat shall be tested for vomitoxin in accordance with procedures approved by Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). Any wheat testing higher than 2 parts per million (p.p.m.) shall not be used in production of the commodity. The final product shall not contain more than 1 p.p.m. of vomitoxin.

Section 1.2 WARRANTY

The product shall have a shelf life of at least one year from date of manufacturer. Product shall not be manufactured more than 30 days prior to shipping.

Section 1.3 KOSHER ONLY PRODUCTS

“Kosher Only” products will be identified in the solicitation. Offerors shall not bid on these products unless they are properly certified to produce Kosher products. If awarded a contract, contractors shall:

- (1) Comply with applicable dietary (Kosher) laws as established by the “613 Council of Kashruth,” and
- (2) Contact the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York at 646-472-5365. A rabbinic supervisor will be sent to visit the plant to certify compliance with the applicable dietary (Kosher) laws.

Section 1.4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

A. The contractor shall perform the product testing and quality analysis to ensure that the product meets the commodity specifications. The results shall be evidenced by a Certificate of Analysis (COA). If quality discounts are provided in the contract, and the product to be delivered by the contractor falls within the quality discount table, those factors shall be identified by an asterisk on the copies of the COA.

B. Contractors shall notify the Government immediately of lots that fail to meet contract requirements.

Section 1.5 QUALITY DISCOUNTS

If the product does not meet the quality specifications as specified but falls within the discount table, the product may be delivered to the Government but the purchase price will be reduced in accordance with the following schedule of discounts for each 100 pounds (net weight) of commodity delivered:

Product	Quality Deficiency	Discount
Enriched Farina	Deficient Iron 89 through 80 mg./lb.	\$0.10
	Deficient Iron 79 through 70 mg./lb.	\$0.25
Rolled Oats	Excess Crude Fiber 1.9 or 2.0	\$0.10
	Excess Crude Fiber 2.1	\$0.25
	Excess Crude Fiber 2.2 or 2.3	\$0.35
Rolled Wheat	None Allowed	
Bulgur	None Allowed	

Part 2 CONTAINER AND PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

Section 2.1 GENERAL

This part provides the container specifications and packaging materials requirements used under this contract.

Section 2.2 CONTAINERS AND MATERIALS

- A. All containers and packaging materials shall be manufactured and assembled in the United States. The components that make up the fabricating materials of the containers and packaging materials shall be of U.S. origin to the extent that they are commercially available. Questions concerning the availability of a material should be directed to:
 - USDA/FSA/DACO
 - Room 5755 – South Bldg, STOP 0551
 - 1400 Independence Avenue SW
 - Washington, DC 20250-0551
 - ATTN: Packaging
- B. Constructed to meet the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for safe contact with the packaged product.
- C. The contractor shall obtain and maintain documentation from the container or packaging material manufacturer to verify that the containers and packaging materials used in this contract were in compliance with the Government's requirements.

Section 2.3 CARTONS

- A. 14-Ounce Cartons
14 ounces of product shall be packed in paperboard cartons with sealed ends. The carton shall conform to Federal Specification PPP-B-566, as amended, Variety 1, Style I, Type A, Class a or b. The carton shall be sized to minimize headspace. The carton shall be constructed of either:
 - (1) a minimum .022 inch, 85-pound basis weight solid food grade paperboard, or
 - (2) a minimum .020 inch, 80-pound basis weight solid food grade paperboard overwrapped and sealed with a .45-pound white finish paper stock label.
- B. Two-Pound or Three-Pound Cartons
Two or Three pounds of product, as applicable, shall be packed in paperboard cartons with sealed ends. The carton shall conform to Federal Specification PPP-B-566, as amended, Variety 1, Style I, Type A, Class a or b. The carton shall be constructed of a minimum .028 inch solid food grade paperboard with a bursting strength of 105 p.s.i. The carton shall be sized to minimize headspace.

Section 2.4 FIBERBOARD TUBES

All fiberboard tubes shall be packed in corrugated fiberboard shipping containers as specified in Section 2.8.

- A. 18-Ounce Fiberboard Tubes
18 ounces of product shall be packed in fiberboard tubes of a type normally used in commercial channels.
- B. 2-Pound 10-Ounce Fiberboard Tubes
2-pound 10-ounce products shall be packed in a spiral wound fiberboard tube constructed of either:
 - (1) 2-ply, .024 inch double kraft-lined tube stock laminated with vegetable base dextrine. The ends shall be constructed of .026 inch double manila line cap stock.
 - (2) 2-ply, .027 inch, straw chipboard with the ends constructed of .028 inch manila outside cap stock.

Section 2.5 SMALL PAPER BAGS

- A. 2, 3, or 5 pounds of product shall be packed in bags constructed of 60-pound basis weight natural kraft or extensible paper.
- B. 10 pounds of product shall be packed in bags constructed of 70-pound basis weight natural kraft or extensible paper.
- C. The side seam of each bag shall be adhered with a moisture-resistant adhesive. The finished seam shall be capable of withstanding immersion in water at 73.5 degrees Fahrenheit, plus or minus 5 degrees Fahrenheit, for a period of not less than six (6) hours without the glued seam separating voluntarily. If the seam is separated manually after the immersion period, the paper at the seam shall show evidence of fiber tear.
- D. The bag closures shall be secured to prevent the product from leaking out of the bags during distribution. Closure by means of gummed tape is not acceptable.

Section 2.6 BALERS

- A. Paper or plastic balers shall be used for 24/2-pound, 12/3-pound, 8/5-pound, and 4/10-pound bags. Balers shall provide a compact, solid, and securely-held unit to prevent shifting of the bags within the baler during handling, stacking, and shipment.
- B. Plastic balers may have holes in the seal area only. These holes are not acceptable if they allow the bags to become loose or fall from the baler.
- C. Markings are not required on the plastic balers.

Section 2.7 CORRUGATED FIBERBOARD SHIPPING CONTAINERS

- A. Shipping containers shall be packed with 12/14-ounce cartons, 24/14-ounce cartons, 24/2-pound cartons, 12/3-pound cartons, 12/18-ounce fiberboard tubes, 24/18-ounce fiberboard tubes, or 12/42-ounce fiberboard tubes.
- B. Shipping containers shall conform to Rule 41, as amended, of the Uniform Freight Classification (UFC) Rules and Regulations and shall be constructed of a minimum 32-pound Edge Crush Test (ECT) corrugated fiberboard. Fourteen (14)-ounce cartons may be packed in shipping containers constructed of a minimum 29-pound ECT corrugated fiberboard. The shipping containers shall be regular slotted containers.
- C. The closure and sealing of outer flaps shall be in accordance with UFC Rule 41, Section 9, as amended. The inner and outer flaps shall be drawn together as closely as possible to ensure a compact and tight pack.

Section 2.8 25-POUND BAGS

- A. 25 pounds of product shall be packed in multi-wall paper bags constructed in accordance with Federal Specification UU-S-48, Type II or VI, Style A or B, as amended. The use of recycled materials is not required if performance or food safety is jeopardized.
- B. The bag shall have 3 walls having a minimum total basis weight of 150 pounds.

Section 2.9 50-POUND BAGS

- A. 50 pounds of product shall be packed in multi-wall paper bags constructed in accordance with Federal Specification UU-S-48, Level C packing, as amended. The use of recycled materials is not required if performance or food safety is jeopardized
- B. The bags shall be of a type normally used in commercial channels, constructed and closed in compliance with the applicable carrier rules and regulations.

Section 2.10 UNITIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Shipments shall comply with the following unitization requirements:

- A. Unless otherwise specified by the Government, all shipments of packaged products shall be unitized (palletized and stretch wrapped).
- B. Pallets shall be:
 - (1) Constructed to facilitate the safe handling and transportation of the packaged product, as a unit, without loss or damage.
 - (2) A Number 2, four-way, reversible flush stringer with no broken runners or slats.
 - (3) Suitable for use in the shipment of food products.
- C. Plastic stretch wrap shall be:
 - (1) Constructed of a plastic film which is to be stretched a minimum of 50 percent beyond its original length when stretched around the pallet load.
 - (2) Applied as tightly as possible around all tiers of the palletized shipping containers. The shipping containers shall be held firmly in place by the stretch wrap.
- D. Pallet loads shall be:
 - (1) Stacked in such a way as to minimize the amount that shipping containers overhang the edges of pallets.
 - (2) Blocked and braced or otherwise loaded into the conveyance in a manner that prevents shifting during transit.

Section 2.11 COMMERCIAL PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Contractors shall supply commercial brand products only and shall certify at the time of submission of an offer that the commercial product being delivered has a history of successful distribution and use in domestic commercial channels and is sold on the commercial market with an established level of consumer acceptance.**
- B. Container and packaging requirements are those used in the current commercial shipping practices and shall comply with:
 - (1) U.S. domestic origin of containers and packaging materials in Section 2.2.
 - (2) Unitization requirement in Section 2.10.
 - (3) At contractor's option, a statement such as "Not for Retail Sale" may be printed on the principal display panel of the food label.
 - (4) The manufacturer's lot code/lot identification number shall be shown on the commercial bill of lading.
 - (5) Shipping containers shall be marked to show the maximum safe stacking height. It is the responsibility of the contractor in cooperation with the shipping container manufacturers to determine the safe stacking height.
 - (6) For identification upon receipt at delivery warehouses, all commercial-labeled product shipping documents shall specify "FOR USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS."