

USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

WF11

**WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTS
FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS**

Effective Date: **11/05/07**

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Part 1 COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

Section 1.1 COMMODITIES

A. Quality of the Commodity

- (1) 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.
- (2) The commodity delivered shall meet the requirements as specified in the Commercial Item Description (CID) A-A-20126E (February 26, 2004) for flour products available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20126e.htm>, except for the following analytical and physical requirements:

Commodity	Protein Level Minimum ¹	Ash Level Maximum ¹	Moisture Maximum	Falling Number Units	
				Minimum	Maximum
All Purpose Flour	9.0%	0.50%	14.0%	225	300
Bread Flour	11.3%	0.50%	14.0%	225	300
Whole Wheat Flour	12.0%	1.90%	14.0%	250	---

- (3) Bulk Flour Shipments.
 - a. At the time of shipment, the contractor shall furnish to the destination consignee a mill laboratory analysis that the flour meets all the testing and quality requirements of the contract.
 - b. For bulk shipments by railroad car or truck, the weight of the quantity shipped shall be evidenced by an official weight certificate and included with the invoice. If official weights are not available at the plant location, the contractor shall obtain the official weight certificates at an intermediate point or at destination.

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

¹ These limiting values are on a 14.0 percent moisture basis.

- 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 of this contract but falls within the discounts listed below, 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 of commodity delivered:

**All Purpose Wheat Flour
(General Purpose Flour)**

Excess Ash		Excess Moisture	
0.51% - 0.52%	\$0.15	14.1% - 14.2%	\$0.15
0.53% - 0.54%	\$0.25	14.3% - 14.4%	\$0.25
0.55%	\$0.40	14.5% - 14.6%	\$0.40
Excess Falling No. Range Units		Deficient Falling No. Range Units	
301 – 320	\$0.10	224 - 217	\$0.10
321 - 340	\$0.20	216 – 209	\$0.20
341 - 360	\$0.30	208 - 201	\$0.30

Bread Flour

Deficient Protein		Excess Ash	
11.2% - 11.1%	\$0.15	0.51% – 0.52%	\$0.15
11.0% - 10.9%	\$0.25	0.53% – 0.54%	\$0.25
10.8% - 10.7%	\$0.40	0.55%	\$0.40
Excess Moisture			
14.1% – 14.2%	\$0.15		
14.3% – 14.4%	\$0.25		
14.5% – 14.6%	\$0.40		
Excess Falling No. Range Units		Deficient Falling No. Range Units	
301 – 320	\$0.10	224 – 217	\$0.10
321 – 340	\$0.20	216 – 209	\$0.20
341 – 360	\$0.30	208 – 201	\$0.30

Whole Wheat Flour

Deficient Protein		Excess Ash	
11.9% - 11.8%	\$0.15	2.0% – 2.1%	\$0.15
11.7% - 11.6%	\$0.25	2.2% – 2.3%	\$0.25
11.5%	\$0.40	2.4%	\$0.40
Excess Moisture		Deficient Falling No. Range Units	
14.1% – 14.2%	\$0.15	249 - 248	\$0.10
14.3% – 14.4%	\$0.25	247 – 246	\$0.20

14.5% – 14.6%	\$0.40	245	\$0.30

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 shall be constructed to meet the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for safe contact with the packaged product. 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 regulatory requirements for safe contact with food products as required in the Master Solicitation, Part 3, Section A, Number 3.**

- B. Questions concerning the containers and materials should be directed to:
USDA/FSA/DACO
Room 5755 – South Bldg, STOP 0551
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-0551
ATTN: Packaging**

- C. If the contractor purchases packaging and container ingredients from a foreign country and/or the package and container is manufactured in a foreign country, the package and container SHALL NOT display country of origin labeling. Phrases similar to but not inclusive of, “Made in [Name of Foreign Country.]” or “Product of [Name of Foreign Country.]” are strictly prohibited.**

5-POUND AND 10-POUND PAPER BAGS

- A. Five (5) pounds of product shall be packed in bags constructed of 60-pound basis weight natural kraft or extensible paper.**

- B. Ten (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° Fahrenheit, plus or minus 5° 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 2.4 25-POUND BAGS

Twenty-five (25) pounds of product shall be packed in bags constructed of a minimum of three (3) walls of natural kraft paper having a minimum combined basis weight of 150 pounds. The bag closures shall be secured to prevent the product from leaking out of the bags during distribution.

Section 2.5 2/25-POUND PAPER BAGS

Twenty-five (25) pounds of product shall be packed in bags constructed of a minimum of one (1) wall of natural kraft paper or extensible draft paper having a minimum combined basis weight of 95 pounds. The bags shall be Style Delta-Seal. The bag closures shall be secured to prevent the product from leaking out of the bags during distribution. Balers shall be used to unitize 2/25-pound bags.

Section 2.6 50-POUND AND 100 POUND PAPER BAGS

Fifty (50) or 100 pounds of product shall be packed in bags of a type normally used in commercial channels and constructed in compliance with the applicable carrier rules and regulations. The bag closures shall be secured to prevent the product from leaking out of the bags during distribution.

Section 2.7 BALERS

- A. Paper or plastic balers shall be used for 8/5-pound, 4/10-pound, and 2/25-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 2.8 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 2.9 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) Unitization requirements in Section 2.8.
 - (2) At contractor's option, a statement such as "Not for Retail Sale" may be printed on the principal display panel of the food label.
 - (3) The manufacturer's lot code/lot identification number shall be shown on the commercial bill of lading.
 - (4) 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.
 - (5) For identification upon receipt at delivery warehouses, all commercial-labeled product shipping documents shall specify "FOR USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS."