



United States
Department of
Agriculture

October 1, 1999

EOD-56

NOTICE TO THE TRADE
ALL EXPORT VENDORS

Farm and
Foreign
Agricultural
Services

SUBJECT: Vitamin and Mineral Requirements
Effective Date: October 1, 1999

Farm Service
Agency

Effective with contracts entered into on or after October 1, 1999, cereal-based processed commodities procured for export assistance programs will be tested on a per lot basis for compliance to vitamin and mineral specifications contained in the purchase announcement. Effective January 1, 2000, lots will be rejected for non-compliance with micronutrient specifications. Table 1 outlines what commodities will be tested and the minimum values required.

Kansas City
Commodity Office
P.O. Box 419205
Kansas City,
Missouri
64141-6205

This testing is in response to collaborative work with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and is aimed at improving the quality of processed food aid commodities. Studies by SUSTAIN and National Academy of Sciences (NAS) highlighted inconsistencies in the micronutrient uniformity of processed cereal commodities and the need to establish a reliable "marker" to monitor and ensure compliance with specifications. The vitamins and minerals added to many of the export blended commodities are essential for the health of the undernourished people receiving the food. Improved uniformity will help ensure those people receive the much needed micronutrients in their daily diet.

Earlier in 1999, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) conducted a 6-month testing period in which corn-soy blend (CSB) and wheat-soy blend (WSB) were tested for Vitamin A, niacin, iron, and zinc. This testing period was designed to determine the most reliable marker(s) of micronutrient uniformity and to develop accept/reject criteria for the vitamins and minerals. As a result of those tests, Vitamin A and iron were chosen as markers. CSB and WSB will be tested for both, and all other cereal-based processed commodities will be tested for Vitamin A.

The requirement for Vitamin A will be 80 percent of the target (or maximum) level included in the specification.

The requirement for iron will be 100 percent of the target (or maximum) level included in the specification. Table 1 outlines the minimum values required for each commodity.

October 1, 1999

EOD-56

Table 1: Commodities to be tested and minimum values for vitamin and mineral markers.

Commodity	Vitamin A (IU/lb)	Iron (mg/100g)
Corn-soy Blend	8400	14.7
Wheat-soy Blend	8400	14.7
Wheat Flour*	9600	not tested
Cornmeal*	9600	not tested
Bulgur*	9600	not tested
Sorghum*	9600	not tested
*Includes all fortified commodities in this category.		

Vendors not under the Total Quality Systems Audit Program (TQSA) will have the composite samples that are pulled by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) tested for Vitamin A and Iron (if required). Vendors under the TQSA program are responsible for having their product tested for Vitamin A and Iron (if required). Under TQSA, vendors are also required to submit duplicate composite samples to FGIS Commodity Testing Laboratory. These samples will also be tested for Vitamin A and Iron (if required).

The cost of the testing will be for the account of the Contractor and will be as follows:

Vitamin A \$50.00 per composite sample
Iron \$15.00 per composite sample

Vendors are requested to submit their results to the Contract Management Branch in Washington, D.C., on a per contract basis. Reports should list all lot codes in the contract and respective test results from FGIS and those obtained independently. Reports can be submitted by fax to (202) 690-1809 or mailed to:

ATTN: Micronutrient Study
USDA/FSA/PDD/CMB/Stop 0551
Room 5755-S
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0551

October 1, 1999

EOD-56

Questions regarding this change should be directed to Mr.
Dean Jensen at (202)720-2115 or Ms. Rebecca Lee at
(202)690-2534.

Alan King, Director

