



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service
Agency

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
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Washington, DC
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NOTICE TO THE TRADE

SUBJECT: Revised Bag Markings for Use in Export Programs

Effective for solicitations issued on or after April 1, 2006, suppliers of all packaged commodities utilized under foreign food assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Agency for International Development are responsible for ensuring and certifying that all packaging and markings meet the requirements for 25-kg capacity multiwall paper bags and 50-kg capacity woven polypropylene bags as outlined in Part 3 of the Commodity Requirements Documents.

The updated Commodity Requirements Documents can be viewed at the following web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/CommRequirements.htm>

Please be advised that for a short period of time, when permitted in upcoming solicitations, the U.S. Government will allow commodity vendors to utilize existing inventories of bags that meet the packaging and marking requirements being replaced April 1, 2006.

Revisions to vegetable oil package markings will be issued in the near future.

Commodity and packaging suppliers are responsible for reviewing the appropriate Commodity Requirements Document to ensure compliance with the new requirements. Any questions should be directed to the Bulk Commodities Division at 816-926-6524 or Export Operations Division at 816-926-6707.

/s/

Bert Farrish
Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations