

USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

**RC7
INSTANT RICE CEREAL PRODUCTS
FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS**

Effective Date: 09/01/05

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Part 1 COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

Section 1.1 COMMODITIES

The commodity delivered shall meet the requirements as specified in the Cereal for Babies, Instant, Commercial Item Descriptions (CID), A-A-20022B (June 13, 2005) at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20022c.htm>.

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 45 days prior to shipping.

Section 1.3 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).
- B. Contractors shall notify the Government immediately of lots that fail to meet contract requirements

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 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 2.3. except the vitamin thiamin HCL may be of domestic or foreign origin.
 - (2) Unitization requirements in Section 2.4.
 - (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.”

Section 2.3 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 2.4 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.