

**USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS**

**VP8  
VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTS  
FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS**

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

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# Part 1 COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

## Section 1.1 COMMODITIES

The commodity delivered shall meet the requirements as specified in the Commercial Item Descriptions (CID) as follows:

A. Salad Oils, Vegetable, CID A-A-20091D (May 7, 2002) at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20091d.htm>, Types I and IV, Style A or B, except those requirements of Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12.1

- (1) Peanut oil is excluded from the list of oils allowed under Section 3 of the CID.
- (2) Salad oils (vegetable) shall meet the following net weight requirements:

### Vegetable Oil Net Weight

Pack Size	Unit Net Weight	Allowable Unit Variation	Under-Fill Limit
48 fluid ounces	2.9 pounds	0.1 pounds	2.8 pounds
1 gallon	7.7 pounds	0.2 pounds	7.5 pounds

- (3) Low saturated fat vegetable oil cannot exceed one (1) gram of saturated fat per one (1) tablespoon serving as defined by the Food and Drug Administration in 21 CFR 101.62. The vegetable oil shall be manufactured and labeled “low saturated fat” in accordance with National Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) guidelines cited in 21 CFR 101.9.
- (4) Bulk oils are limited to Type 1 soybean oil only.

B. Shortening Compounds, CID A-A20100C (May 1, 2002) at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20100c.htm>, including net weight requirements, except those requirements of Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12.1.

- (1) Type II shortening compounds are excluded.
- (2) The 12/3 pound and 50 pound pack sizes of shortening are limited to Type I shortening.
- (3) Liquid shortening is limited to Type III shortening. The liquid shortening shall be entirely free from animal products.

C. Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing, and Tartar Sauce, CID A-A-20140B (June 24, 1993) at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20140b.htm>.

- (1) Salad dressings, reduced calorie salad dressings and fat free salad dressings (mayonnaise type), except those requirements for packaging, labeling, and markings.
- (2) Reduced calorie and fat free salad dressings (mayonnaise type) shall also meet the following microbiological requirements:

Aerobic Plate Count	Less than 1,000/gram
Acid Tolerant Micro-organisms	Less than 10/gram

Yeast and Molds	Less than 10/gram
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- D. Bulk Oil Shipments  
 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:

- A. Comply with applicable dietary (Kosher) laws as established by the “613 Council of Kashruth,” and
- B. 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).
- 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) Unitization requirements in Section 2.4.

- (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."

### **Section 2.3 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.**

### **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.