

**USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS**

**PA10**

**PASTA PRODUCTS AND EGG NOODLES  
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 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 commodities delivered shall meet the requirements as specified in the following Commercial Item Descriptions (CID):
  - (a) Pasta Products, Enriched and Whole Wheat, (CID) A-A-20062D (May 20, 2005), available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20062d.htm>, except only semolina flour shall be used.
  - (b) Noodles, Egg, Enriched, (CID) A-A-20063C (June 3, 1997) for Noodles, Egg, Enriched, available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fqa/aa20063c.htm>, except that enriched egg noodles shall be 1/2 inch wide.

### **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 **60** 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**

- 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:

<b>Pasta Products</b>			
<b>Excess Ash</b>		<b>Excess Checks, Broken, Units &amp; Black Specs</b>	
1.11% - 1.15%	\$0.10	11 through 15	\$0.10
1.16% - 1.19%	\$0.20	16 through 20	\$0.20
1.20% - 1.25%	\$0.35	21 through 25	\$0.35
<b>Excess Moisture</b>			
13.1%	\$0.05		
13.2%	\$0.10		
13.3%	\$0.15		
13.4%	\$0.20		
13.5%	\$0.25		

**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.**

**Section 2.3 1-POUND, 2-POUND, AND 2.5-POUND BAGS**

One (1), two (2), and 2 1/2 pounds of product shall be packaged in a minimum two (2) mil. polyethylene or polypropylene bag conforming to the requirements of Federal Specification PPB-B-26, Type II, Grade A, Style I, as amended.

**Section 2.4 1-POUND AND 2-POUND PAPERBOARD CARTONS**

One (1) and two (2) pounds of product shall be packed in a folding paperboard carton with sealed ends. The cartons shall be constructed of at least 0.016 inch solid food grade fiberboard with a white outer surface.

**Section 2.5 4-POUND, 5-POUND, 10-POUND, AND 20-POUND BAGS**

Four (4), five (5), ten (10), and 20 pounds of product shall be packed in a minimum three (3) mil. polyethylene or polypropylene bag. The bag shall be closed with a twist tie or by folding down on the product. If the bag is closed by folding, it shall be folded twice at the top with 180 degree folds. After folding, the excess bag material shall be tucked between the product and one side of the bag interior.

**Section 2.6 CORRUGATED FIBERBOARD SHIPPING CONTAINERS**

- A. Shipping containers shall be packed with 20/1-pound, 24/1-pound, 12/2-pound, 10/2-pound, 8/2.5-pound, 5/4-pound, 4/5-pound, 2/10-pound, and 1/20-pound bags or cartons.
- B. Shipping containers shall conform to Rule 41, as amended, of the Uniform Freight Classification (UFC) Rules and Regulations and shall be constructed of a minimum 32-pound ECT corrugated fiberboard. The shipping containers shall be regular slotted containers or five-panel folder.
- C. The closure and sealing of outer flaps with tape or adhesive shall be in accordance with UFC Rule 41, Section 9, as amended. The inner and outer flaps shall be drawn together as closely as possible to ensure a compact and tight pack.

**Section 2.7 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 2.8 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 2.7.
  - (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."