

TECHNICAL DATA PACKAGE FOR MEAL, READY-TO-EAT

MRE XXVI

TECHNICAL DATA FOR ASSEMBLY AND CONTRACTOR FURNISHED
MATERIAL (CFM) COMPLEMENTARY COMPONENTS

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR
ASSEMBLY AND COMPLEMENTARY CFM COMPONENTS

NOTE: The Quality Assurance Provisions found in Section E of this solicitation and in Sections E and Quality Assurance Provisions and Packaging Requirements of component Prime Documents cited in this solicitation are required for contractor, Army Veterinary, and USDA inspection.

NOTE: For all Operational Rations food components (MRE, MCW/LRP, Tray Pack, UGR, Unitized B, etc.), inspection shall be contractor paid USDA,AMS,FV,PPB inspection in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P09, unless otherwise specified by this solicitation/contract. The regulations, file codes, etc. of the respective agency are applicable to the contract in conjunction with the quality assurance requirements of the contract. Optional contractor testing provided by DSCP Clause 52.246-9P10 is applicable, unless otherwise specified by this solicitation/contract. When permitted by the applicable food component specification, a Certificate of Conformance (COC) for ingredients shall be provided in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P20.

NOTE: FAR Clause 52.246-2 and 52.246-11 are applicable to this solicitation/contract and shall be cited to properly enforce the Higher Level Contract Quality requirements.

NOTE: In addition to any inspection requirements cited in contract and/or prime documents, for entrees, starches and soups, and fruits, inspection for packaging, labeling and packing, and marking shall be in accordance with the Quality Assurance Provisions and Packaging Requirements for MIL-PRF-44073, and the Quality Assurance Provision contained in Section E of this solicitation.

Saving and reserving all rights under the general inspection requirements of DSCP Clause 52.246-9P09, the procedures for inspection and acceptance will be as follows:

E-1. Quality Assurance Requirements for Ration Component Production Plants and Ration Sub Assembly and Assembly Plants.

E-1-A. Higher Level Quality Requirements - Documented Quality Systems Plan (QSP)

The contractor shall model the documented QSP after ISO/ANSI/ASQC Q9001, a system that meets other recognized industry quality standards, or a process control system that is equivalent to or better than ISO/ANSI/ASQC Q9001. The contractor shall identify the quality standard used to model their QSP. If the contractor proposes an alternate (i.e., non-standard) process control system, this shall be clearly stated in the QSP. Some contractors may have third party certification of their quality system, which the private sector devised to administer the ISO series standards. However, third party certification by any third parties, to include Government certifications, is not required. Whether or not contractors want to use third party certification is completely optional on their part. Although certification information may be provided as documentation and evidence to support the system proposed by the contractor, third party certification/registration documentation is not a substitute for government quality assurance with regard to components used in the operational ration programs. Regardless of the standard or non-standard document used to model the documented QSP, the documented QSP shall address, at a minimum, the following elements (within each section of the element the contractor shall provide the information and address the questions, as applicable, listed in Operational Rations Quality Systems Audit Workbook I: Documented QSP Evaluation Guideline:

QSP General Outline

- I. MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND QUALITY SYSTEM DESIGN**
- II. TRAINING**

- III.** DOCUMENT AND DATA CONTROL AND CONTROL OF QUALITY RECORDS
- IV.** CONTROL OF INSPECTION, MEASURING, AND TEST EQUIPMENT (IAW ANSI/NCSL Z540-1 or ISO 10012-1)
- V.** CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF PRODUCT AND FOOD SECURITY
 - 1. Handling, Storage, Packaging, Preservation, and Delivery Program
 - 2. Product Identification and Traceability Program
 - 3. Inspection and Test Status and Records
 - 4. Control of Nonconforming Product
 - 5. Food Security
- VI.** CONTRACT REVIEW, PURCHASING AND CONTROL OF CUSTOMER-SUPPLIED PRODUCT (Government-furnished material)
- VII.** RECEIPT INSPECTION AND TESTING
- VIII.** IN-PROCESS AND PROCESS INSPECTION AND TESTING:
 - 1. Manufacturing Process Controls Techniques (DLAR MPC Clause)
 - 2. Statistical Process Control Techniques (SPC QAP)
- IX.** REGULATORY CONTROLS
 - 1. General Regulatory Requirements (as applicable to the plant USDA-FSIS, FDA, GMP, HACCP, SSOP, USDA-Dairy, etc.).
 - 2. Integrated Pest Management and Sanitation Programs
- X.** END ITEM INSPECTION AND TESTING (IAW product/material specifications/documents and ANSI/ASQC Z1.4)
- XI.** INTERNAL AUDITS
- XII.** CORRECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE ACTION PROGRAM
- XIII.** IMPROVEMENT

The documented QSP will be evaluated by the Operational Rations Quality System Audit Team (composed of DSCP-FTRO, USDA-AMS, and VETCOM's Quality Systems Auditors), USDA-AMS/VETCOM Operational Rations Program Coordinators, and the Government In-Plant Quality Assurance Representatives (QAR) assigned to perform Government QA functions at contractors' facilities. Government personnel will use the Operational Rations Quality Systems Audit Workbook I: Documented QSP Evaluation Guideline (in conjunction with the standard or other document identified in the contractor's QSP) as the basic framework against which they will evaluate QSPs. Workbook I was developed to standardize the evaluations of documented QSPs (developed using ISO/ANSI/ASQC Q9001, other recognized industry quality standards, or a non-standard contractor's specific process control system) submitted by contractors for the purpose of demonstrating their capability to meet the higher-level contract quality requirements using any of the aforementioned documents and for the contracting officer to assess a contractor's capability to meet the contract requirements.

NOTE: Although Government inspection personnel (USDA-AMS/U.S. Army Veterinary Services/DCMAO) are required to evaluate the contractors' QSPs, the QSP rating will be determined and assigned by DSCP-FTRO' Quality Systems Auditors.

Offerers/Contractors can request a copy of Workbook I by contacting the applicable contracting officer or DSCP-FTRO. Workbook I is also available online in PDF format at the following website <http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/rations/QSP.pdf>. DSCP will recognize a contractor's quality system whenever it meets the contract requirements, whether the quality system is modeled on military, commercial, national or international quality systems standards. The design and implementation of a QSP will be influenced by the varying needs of a company, its particular goals and objectives, the products produced, and the processes and specific practices employed in the operation. The intent of the requirement is for contractors to improve process capability, process control which, when used effectively, can result in a prevention-oriented approach rather

than a detection approach that will improve product quality and lower cost through the use of a single quality system in any contractor facility.

A documented QSP is required when a contract references or requires a contractor to perform under the higher-level contract quality requirements. Contractors are responsible for complying with the quality system requirements set forth in their documented QSP in addition to all detailed requirements cited in the contract and for furnishing products that meet all requirements of the contract. Contractors are required to establish, document, submit for Government review, and maintain a quality system as a means of ensuring that product conforms to the requirements of the contract. The documented QSP shall include the quality system procedures and outline the structure of the documentation used in the quality system. When the requirements of the Statistical Process Control Quality Assurances Provision (SPC QAP) and/or the DLAR MPC Clause 52-246-9001 Manufacturing Process Controls and In-Process Inspection are applicable, these requirements must be addressed under the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing section of the documented QSP. Redundant areas/requirements (cited in the MPC Clause or the SPC QAP) need only be addressed once in the QSP. The calibration of measuring and testing equipment shall, as a minimum, adhere to the requirements of ANSI/NCSL Z540-1 or ISO 10012-1.

The Higher Level Contract Quality Requirements, Manufacturing Process Controls (MPC) Clause 52.246-9001, and Statistical Process Controls Quality Assurance Provision (SPC QAP) apply to all CFM and GFM food components and Sub Assembly and Assembly Operations, except as indicated below:

A. The following items are exempt from the Higher Level Contract Quality Requirements, MPC IAW Clause 52.246-9001 and the SPC QAP (No QSP required):

1. Accessory package components
 2. Condiments (even if packaged in laminated barrier pouches) - Hot sauce, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Picante Sauce, etc.
 3. Bulk packed items: Sports bars; beef snacks; cereal treats; chocolate sports bar; ranger bar; HOOAH bars; chow mein noodles; fruit bars (CID AA-20212); granola bars; osmotic fruit; cookies (CID AA - 20295, PCR-C-031, PCR-C-046); peanuts, roasted; snacks (CID AA-20195); and commercial sandwich crackers/cookies and bulk packed items procured using the commercial components solicitation (e.g., candies).
- NOTE:** Bulk packed, as used in this paragraph, means packing prior to finished product packaging. However, note that this does not prohibit the prime contractor from requiring a QSP from their subcontractors for all products on their own accord.

B. **A QSP is required but SPC techniques are optional** for the following items: Beverage bases, cheese spreads, , cookies (CID AA - 20295, PCR-C-031, PCR-C-046), dairy component powders (cocoa beverages, dairy shakes, flavored coffees, non-dairy creamer, etc), nut raisin mixes, peanut butter, peanut spread, jellies/jams/preserves, and bulked-packed items that are individually packaged by an assembler/packer in military packaging (laminated barrier pouches). However, note that this does not prohibit the prime contractor from requiring SPC techniques from their subcontractors for all products on their own accord.

NOTE: TO THE EXTENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE CONTRACT OR ITS GENERAL PROVISIONS AND A CONTRACTOR'S QSP AND OR IMPLEMENTED QUALITY SYSTEM, THE CONTRACT AND THE GENERAL PROVISIONS SHALL CONTROL.

The QSP shall be submitted to DSCP-FTRO, through the Contracting Officer, for review no later than at time of bid submittal to determine if the QSP meets the acquisition needs. The QSP shall be DOCUMENTED,

DATED, AND SIGNED BY A RESPONSIBLE COMPANY OFFICIAL and WILL BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER COMPANY LETTERHEAD TO THE ADDRESSEES BELOW:

A. ONE COPY SHALL BE MAILED (AT TIME OF BID SUBMITTAL) TO:

DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA
ATTN: DSCP-FTRO (Operational Rations Quality Systems Audit Team or
Applicable Contracting Officer)
700 ROBBINS AVE., BLDG 6
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111-5092

B. **AFTER CONTRACT AWARD** ONE COPY SHALL BE MAILED **PRIOR TO THE INITIATION OF PRODUCTION** TO EACH OF THE **FOLLOWING** GOVERNMENT INSPECTION OFFICES:

1. **USDA-AMS OFFICES:** When USDA-AMS is responsible for performing Government source inspection at a ration facility one copy shall be mailed to each of the following USDA-AMS offices:

a. **HEAD, DEFENSE CONTRACT INSPECTION SECTION**

USDA,AMS,FFV,PPB (202) 720-5021
ATTN: Richard Boyd/Donna McCarter
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE. SW
STOP 0247, ROOM 0726, SOUTH BLDG.
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-0247

b. **USDA-DCIS OPERATIONAL RATIONS PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

USDA, AMS, FV, PPB (630) 790-6957
800 ROOSEVELT ROAD
BLDG A, SUITE 380
GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137-7688

c. **USDA-AMS INSPECTION AREA OFFICE:** The contractor/subcontractor shall contact USDA-DCIS for the applicable area office address (Weslaco, TX, East Point, GA, North Brunswick, NJ, South Bend, IN, Richmond, VA, etc).

2. **US ARMY VETERINARY COMMAND (VETCOM):** When Army Veterinary inspectors (AVIs) are responsible for performing Government source inspection at MRE assembly plants, one copy shall be personally delivered to the resident AVI/QAR prior to the initiation of production/assembly. The contractor/subcontractor shall contact VETCOM for questions regarding AVI's inspection services.

COMMANDER
U.S. ARMY VETERINARY COMMAND (MCVSF-OPERATIONAL
RATIONS SECTION – MRE Program Coordinator)
2050 WORTH ST., SUITE 5
FT. SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6005

3. **DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY (DCMA):** When DCMA inspectors are responsible for performing Government source inspection at the flameless ration heater (FRH) manufacturing facility, one copy shall be personally delivered to the resident Government QAR prior to the

initiation of production. The contractor/subcontractor shall contact the applicable DCMA office for inspection services.

DCMAO GARDEN CITY
605 STEWART AVE.
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530-4761

DCMAO DAYTON
1507 WILMINGTON PIKE
DAYTON, OH 45444-5300

4. **GOVERNMENT IN-PLANT INSPECTOR/GQAR:** When a Government (USDA-AMS, AVI, or DCMA) inspector is assigned to perform Government source inspection at a contractor/subcontractor facility, one copy shall be **personally delivered to the Government inspector prior to the initiation of production.**

Aforementioned Government inspection personnel and In-Plant Government QARs shall fax, e-mail, or mail (via priority mail) their evaluations and comments to the contractor's QSPs and/or QSP's revisions, **within 20 calendar days** from the day of receipt of the QSP/revision.

Failure to submit comments within the suspense date may result in DSCP-FTRO Quality Systems Auditors not including the applicable inspection agency's comments in Government QSP joint evaluations. In-Plant Government QARs are also required to report quality systems noncompliances within **one working day** using the Corrective Action Request (CAR) Form. QSP evaluations and CARs shall be faxed to the DSCP-FTRO Operational Rations Quality Systems Audit Team at fax number (215) 737-0379, the current DSCP-FTRO' personnel E-mail addresses or mailed to the following address (**the prefer and most expeditious method is via E-mail or fax**):

DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA
ATTN: DSCP-FTRO (Operational Rations Systems Audit Team)
700 ROBBINS AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111-5092

During the Acquisition Phase: During the acquisition phase (prior to contract award), the documented QSP will only be considered either sufficient or insufficient for production (no unacceptable/acceptable rating will be assigned). If a plan as presented is determined to be insufficient for production (which would occur if it does not address the aforementioned minimum elements and include documents/procedures indicated in Workbook I as applicable, or if it is determine that the plan as presented will result in an increase in the consumer's risk, production of nonconforming products or does not meet specification requirements/acquisition needs), the contracting officer, at his/her discretion, may provide the contractor with DSCP-FTRO' QSP evaluation comments as to cause(s) of why the plan was considered insufficient for production and with the opportunity to resubmit a revised QSP. **If a contractor has previously submitted a QSP and the rating was, at a minimum, marginally acceptable, the contractor may reference this QSP by date and only changes (if deemed necessary) need to be submitted at time of bid submittal for this or for future contracts.**

After the Acquisition Phase: After the Acquisition Phase (after contract award), if the contractor submitted a new QSP, DSCP-FTRO will assign a rating of acceptable, marginally acceptable or unacceptable (to a QSP rated sufficient for production during the acquisition phase) within 60 days of contract award. **If a contractor's QSP is rated unacceptable after contract award, the QSP must be revised to receive, at a minimum, a marginally acceptable rating within 90 days of contract award.** The contractor will also be provided with an opportunity to submit changes to improve the plan throughout the life of the contract.

DSCP-FTRO Quality Systems Auditors evaluate, assign QSP ratings, and approve or disapprove changes to the QSP. **QSP procedures or changes to a QSP that may involve a change to a specific contractual requirement (cited in the contract TDP/ items specification/CID) must be coordinated and approved by the Contracting Officer.** To expedite the evaluation process, all QSP changes (**that do not involve a specific contractual change**) shall be **simultaneously** provided to the In-Plant GQAR and a copy faxed, E-mailed, or mailed to DSCP-FTRO and each applicable office for their review. The GQAR's in-plant evaluation will be considered sufficient for production, unless specifically rejected by DSCP-FTRO after the contractor submits the change to DSCP. The contractor's documented QSP is considered a living document and continuous improvements are highly encouraged.

Implementation, compliance, effectiveness, and continuous improvement of the QSP and the implemented quality system will be monitored by on-site quality systems compliance audits conducted throughout the life of the contract by the Operational Rations Quality Systems Audit Team and evaluations/internal audits conducted by the In-Plant Government QARs.

If a contractor fails to submit an acceptable QSP or copies of their QSP's revisions to the Government for review or does not comply with other requirements of the contract, the Government may decline to perform verification acceptance inspection at that time and or refuse to accept any product produced in accordance with FAR 46.102 and 46.407. Additionally, the Government may also withdraw the acceptance of a QSP during the contract period if it is determined that the contractor has not implemented, complied with the documented QSP, or the implemented quality system is not sufficient to meet minimum contractual requirements.

NOTE: DSCP-FTRO and/or the Government QARs shall immediately notify the Contracting Officer of **ALL** noncompliance to specific contractual requirements. DSCP-FTRO will notify and/or obtain contracting officer's support/involvement when a contractor fails to comply with the approved documented QSP requirements or fails to respond to quality systems deficiencies noted during an on-site compliance audit or evaluations/audits conducted by In-Plant Government QARs.

The offerer/contractor agrees to maintain current, and make available, all documents/records required by the documented QSP for Government review at any time throughout the life of the contract and for three years after final delivery on the contract (to include any documents/records maintained by any subcontractor used by the prime contractor to fulfill a Government contract).

NOTE: The procedures of how a contractor intends to comply with the requirements of the MPC Clause or the SPC QAP, as applicable, shall be covered in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section of the contractors' documented QSP/Quality Manual. If the contractor uses a different/numbering system than the Section/Element number cited in the TDP, the contractor's should cross-reference each applicable section of their QSP.

E-1-B. The following DLAR Clause 52-246-9001 is applicable to this contract:

52.246-9001

**MANUFACTURING PROCESS CONTROLS AND IN-PROCESS INSPECTIONS
(JUN 1998)-DLAD**

This clause supplements paragraph 4.9 (Process Controls) of ANSI/ASQC Q9001, or equivalent standards with process controls, and is applicable when the contract requires a higher-level quality system in accordance with FAR 46.202-4. The contractor shall:

(A) Ensure that all manufacturing operations are carried out under controlled conditions that will adequately assure that product characteristics and criteria specified by contract are achieved and maintained in the produced item. Controlled conditions include documented process control and in-process inspection

procedures, adequate methods for identifying and handling material, adequate production equipment and working environments.

(B) As a minimum, perform inspections (examinations and/or tests) during manufacturing on those product characteristics which cannot be inspected at a later stage, and ensure process controls are implemented and effective.

(1) Manufacturing processes shall be evaluated to determine which process characteristics have an effect on the quality of the produced item. These manufacturing processes shall be identified and requirements for their control shall be specified in written process control procedures.

(2) When in-process inspection of material is not practical, control by monitoring processing methods, equipment and personnel shall be provided. Both in-process inspection and process monitoring shall be provided when control is inadequate without both.

(3) Prompt corrective action shall be taken when noncompliance or out of control conditions occur. In the event appropriate corrective and preventive action fails to rectify the product noncompliance; correct the out of control conditions; and/or if these actions are not documented to ensure, to the satisfaction of the Government, that the production lot offered to the Government does not contain nonconforming product, then end item acceptance inspection, and/or acceptance of the end item by the Government may be denied IAW FAR 46.102 and 46.407.

(C) Clearly identify each in-process inspection and process control point at appropriate locations in the manufacturing operation.

(D) Prepare clear, complete and current written procedures for:

(1) Each in process inspection. Identify: the type, frequency and amount (sampling plan/100 percent) of inspection; product characteristics to be inspected; criteria for approving and rejecting product; the record for documenting inspection results, and the method for identifying the inspection status of approved and rejected product.

(2) Each process control. Identify: the criteria, frequency, and records used for verifying control of the process.

(3) Assessing the adequacy of in-process inspections and process controls. The contractor's Quality organization shall assure by periodic surveillance that procedures are followed and are effective. Records of this surveillance will be maintained.

(E) Make the documented inspection system available for review by the Government Quality Assurance Representative prior to the initiation of production and throughout the life of the contract. The Government is under no legal obligation to perform verification inspection or to accept product produced under the contract until the Government has received acceptable written procedures, and has been afforded an opportunity to evaluate the inspection system. Acceptance of the contractor's inspection system by the Government does not bind the Government to accept any nonconforming supplies that may be produced by the contractor. Periodic evaluations of the documented QSP and implemented system compliance and effectiveness will be made through the use of yearly on-site compliance systems audits conducted by the Operational Rations Systems Audit Team and In-Plant GQARs throughout the life of the contract.

(End of Clause)

E-1-C. The following Statistical Process Control Quality Assurance Provision (SPC QAP) applies to this contract:

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISION
Statistical Process Controls
DSCP-H-94-001

The requirements of this QAP shall be addressed in the Documented Quality System Plan (QSP) when applicable. Redundant areas/requirements cited in this QAP or the MPC Clause need only be addressed once in

the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section and/or other applicable section of the contractors' documented QSP/Quality Manual. The characteristics requiring control will be those characteristics providing the best assurance of product conformance to end item contractual requirements. Therefore, the techniques (SPC/MPC) selected to control the processes shall be those that can best and most effectively/efficiently control the characteristics identified and provide the best assurance that the system implemented will consistently produce product conforming to contractual requirements. If the contractor uses a different/numbering system than the Section/Element number cited in the TDP, the contractor's QSP should cross-reference each applicable section/element of their QSP.

I. General Requirements:

A. The offerer/contractor agrees to manage and improve process performance through the evaluation of the quality of the product at the prime contractor and, when required by contract, at subcontractor facilities, using SPC techniques or MPC techniques.

B. Minimum criteria are established in the American Society of Quality Control (ASQC) standards B.1, B.2 and B.3 (formerly the ANSI standards Z1.1, Z1.2, and Z1.3). Alternate SPC techniques such as short run methods are also allowed where applicable.

C. This QAP applies to all work performed at the prime contractor and, when required by contract, at subcontractor facilities. However, in those instances where it is not required of the subcontractor by contract, it does not prohibit the prime contractor from requiring it from their subcontractor of their own accord.

D. The implementation of SPC techniques (or alternate MPC techniques) and procedures shall be prepared in accordance with this provision and included in the documented QSP. Each offerer shall address the requirements of this QAP in their documented QSP (Section/Element VIII) and included with the proposal, when applicable. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the offer.

E. Exclusion of documented QSP submission: If a contractor has previously submitted a QSP and the rating was, at a minimum, marginally acceptable, the contractor may reference their QSP by date and only changes (if deemed necessary) need to be submitted at time of bid submittal for this or for future contracts.

1. Offerers who consider themselves eligible for exclusion of the documented QSP at bid submittal, based on satisfactory utilization of a previously approved QSP for identical or similar supplies, are to submit a written request for exclusion (RFE) to the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO).

The offerer shall identify in the RFE the contract number(s) under which the supplies were previously furnished by them and accepted by the Government; and the applicable item nomenclature and National Stock Number(s); and the date of the documented QSP. QSP changes/revisions/updates, if applicable, need to be submitted along with the RFE at time of proposal. NOTE: Changes/revisions/updates must be well identified, dated and organized to facilitate posting to the QSP.

2. If techniques selected (MPC, SPC, or combination of both) were determined to be adequate (in a QSP previously submitted and approved by DSCP-FTRO), the offerer shall certify that these techniques are still adequate to effectively control the processes and that the system implemented is still capable of consistently producing conforming product.

II. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

A. The offerer shall identify the characteristics to be controlled using SPC techniques (or the alternate MPC techniques). Application of SPC techniques shall be considered for all characteristics identified by performing pareto analysis on the defects from previous production, or projection of potential defects in future production, to discern the vital few and repetitive type failures from the trivial many. Additionally, offerers are encouraged to calculate quality costs to assist in determining what characteristics or processes to control statistically (QSP Element XIII). These defects, and all other characteristics identified by the offerer from process capability studies on current production, shall be subject to the application of SPC techniques or other analyses. The characteristics requiring control will be those characteristics providing the best assurance of product conformance to end item contractual requirements. In addition to the characteristics identified by the offerer, the following characteristics will be controlled using SPC techniques, MPC techniques, or other alternate controls methods deemed appropriate and effective in controlling the processes. Alternate controls to SPC and MPC must be clearly identified and explained in detail in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section of the contractors' documented QSP/Quality Manual. **The description of SPC or MPC techniques shall be sufficient to allow a reviewer unfamiliar with the item or the contractor's production operation to properly assess the applicability of the control measures/techniques being proposed.**

1. For Thermostabilized or Hot Filled Items: (1) Laminated barrier pouch/tray integrity (absence of tears, cuts, holes, delamination, abrasions, leakage, and non-fusion bonded seals, etc.) (2) Tray pack can seam integrity, and (3) All thermostabilized items - the critical control points of the process schedule as determined by the contractor's Processing Authority and critical control points of the retort process schedule. The critical control points, other control points, and the contractor's Processing Authority shall be clearly identified in the Regulatory Controls Section and/or the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section of the contractor's QSP, as applicable.

2. For Water Activity Stabilized Items: (1) Laminated barrier pouch/tray integrity (absence of tears, cuts, holes, delamination, abrasions, leakage, and non-fusion bonded seals, etc.) (2) Tray pack can seam integrity, and (3) All water activity-stabilized items - control of water activity, and oxygen scavenger placement. The control points shall be clearly identified in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section of the contractor's QSP.

3. Flameless Ration Heater (FRH): The FRH chemical formulation and those processes that affect the formulation, performance, and the packaging (including over-wrapped FRH) of the FRH. The control points shall be clearly identified in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section of the contractor's QSP.

4. Assembly Operations: The use of SPC and/or MPC techniques is required. However, the Assembler shall determine application of SPC/MPC techniques for the assembly and sub assembly processes by performing a Pareto analysis. NOTE: The assembler shall identify the type of controls (MPC, SPC, or both) being applied for each process identified. The control points for the assembly and subassembly processes shall be clearly identified in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section of the Assembler's QSP.

5. For Other Items SPC techniques are optional.

B. The SPC and MPC techniques (or combination of both) will be evaluated as part of the documented QSP for the firm or firms eligible for award.

C. A documented QSP determined to be Insufficient for Production during the acquisition phase or seriously deficient may preclude the offerer from receiving an award. However, the PCO has the final authority

and he/she may permit an offerer to revise a deficient QSP provided it is reasonably capable of being made sufficient for production or acceptable. Failure to negotiate a sufficient for production and/or acceptable QSP, as applicable, may also preclude the offerer from receiving an award.

D. SPC Program: The information requested in Workbook I, In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section (Area 1 and 2 as applicable) shall be covered in the applicable section of the contractor's QSP. For characteristics as designated by the Offerer and/or the Government to be controlled using SPC or MPC techniques as indicated above, the QSP, as a minimum, must address the following: The QSP must identify and define each in-process control point (IPCP) and/or process control point (PCP) in sequence in relation to the production, subassembly/assembly flow or chain of events (from weighing/mixing/batching of ingredients/materials, packaging, to final product); clearly identify the control technique selected (SPC/MPC or combination) to control each process identified; the number of samples selected, location of sample selection, and frequency of sampling at each IPCP and PCP identified; include procedures that describe the production/assembly operations and how the contractor ensures these are carried out under control conditions to assure that product characteristics and criteria specified in the contract are achieved and maintained in the finished product (end item); and identify documents that are the basis for the SPC/MPC program including internal audits, textbooks, standards, and/ or Government documents.

E. Structure (policy/scope): The QSP shall identify the contractor's policy for applying SPC and the contractor's goals and commitments regarding SPC and continuous process improvement. The contractor may also discuss alternatives to SPC techniques (MPC techniques or other control technique) that have successfully reduced/prevented the production of defects. Information must be covered in the Management Responsibility and Quality System Design Section I of the QSP or other applicable section of the contractor's QSP.

F. SPC Training: Information must be covered in the Training Section of the QSP or other applicable section of the contractor's QSP.

G. Vendor/Subcontractor/Purchase Controls: Information must be covered in the Contract Review, Purchasing, and Customer-Supplied Product of the QSP or other applicable section of the contractor's QSP.

H. Manufacturing Controls: (IAW DLAR Clause 52-246-9001 Manufacturing Process Controls and In-Process Inspection as applicable). The information requested in Workbook I, In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section (Area 1 and 2 as applicable) should be covered in the applicable section of the contractor's QSP (for characteristics as designated by the Offerer and/or the Government to be controlled using SPC or MPC techniques as indicated above): The QSP must clearly identify the control technique selected (SPC/MPC or combination) to control each process identified. Must include procedures that describe the production/assembly operations and how the contractor ensures these are carried out under control conditions to assure that product characteristics and criteria specified in the contract are achieved and maintained in the finished product (end item).

I. Statistical Process Control Procedures (General): The information requested in Workbook I, In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section (Area 1 and 2 as applicable) should be covered in the applicable section of the contractor's QSP (for characteristics as designated by the Offerer and/or the Government to be controlled using SPC or MPC techniques as indicated above):

1. **Criteria for Using SPC Techniques:** How the contractor determined which processes were appropriate for use of SPC or MPC techniques; process capability studies (application); types of charts used and rationale for use; and computer hardware/software used for SPC (if applicable).

2. **SPC Auditing and Review Procedures:** This information must be covered under the Internal Audit Section or other applicable section of the contractor's QSP

3. **SPC Records.** How the following records apply/correlate to the SPC program: Incoming inspection, manufacturing inspection, subcontractor inspection, internal and external failure reports, corrective action reports, control charts, scrap and rework reports, lessons learned, recommendations and feedback, etc. The information must be included in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section (Area 1 and 2 as applicable), the Document and Data Control and Control of Quality Records Section of the QSP or in the applicable section of the contractor's QSP.

J. When the documented QSP is rated acceptable and the system implemented is effective in consistently producing conforming product, the contractor may qualify for Government verification skip-lot inspection (Procedures for Alternative Skip-Lot End Item Inspection Requirements for Government Verification Inspections for Operational Rations). The Government reserves the right to return to the original acceptance sampling requirements if Government source inspection is waived, skip-lot is not in the best interest of the Government or for other causes as indicated in the procedure. The documented QSP shall be documented, dated, and signed by a responsible company official, and will be distributed under company letterhead as indicated in preceding paragraph "Higher Level Requirement - Quality Systems Plan (QSP)". The contractor is required to incorporate the requirements of this SPC QAP in the In-Process and Process Inspection and Testing Section (Area 1 and 2 as applicable) of the QSP or other applicable sections of the contractor's QSP.

E-1-D. The contractor's documented QSP and implemented Quality Systems are to be verified by the in-plant Government QARs/inspectors, when Government source inspection is required, in accordance with the Operational Rations Documented QSP Evaluation Workbook I, the regulation/file code of the respective inspection agency, and the particular requirements detailed in the contract.

E-2. Particular Requirements for Ration Assembler

E-2-A. The word "contractor" as used herein, shall mean the ration assembly/sub assembly contractor to which this contract applies.

E-2-B. The contractor will have a quality assurance program that supports continuous improvement in accordance with paragraph E-1 above and the particular requirements applicable to the MRE outlined herein for the final assembly of the MRE ration, the unit packaging of food components, accessory bags and menu sub assembly pack bags.

E-2-C. Government verification inspection and testing (conducted by the GQAR or Government laboratory) shall be withheld, at a minimum, until the contractor's completed inspection results are presented to the Government's Quality Assurance Representative (GQAR). Unless otherwise authorized, in writing, by the contracting officer, the GQAR and/or Government laboratory shall not perform Government verification inspection/testing unless the contractor's lot submittal package (inspection/test results-including analytical testing) provided to the GQAR indicates conformance to ALL contractual requirements

E-2-D. Government verification inspection may be accomplished by utilizing smaller sample sizes provided sampling plans utilized do not increase producer's sampling risk as assessed by applicable (ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003) operating characteristic curves. Contracting Officer approval must be obtained prior to skip lot and/or reduced inspection.

E-2-E. When representatives of the U.S. Army Veterinary Command are designated cognizance for the support of the Government's quality assurance requirements, the responsibilities and authorities cited in the regulations, command policies, etc. of the respective agency and those regulations, command policies, etc. to which that agency is subject, are applicable to the contract in conjunction with the quality assurance requirements of the contract.

E-2-F. AVI inspection is required for the sub assembly packaging, at the assembly plant, of bulk-packed items that are individually packaged by an assembler/packer in military packaging (laminated barrier pouches),

accessory bags, menu sub assembly pack, and MRE final assembly, i. e., MRE menus and final cases. When the sub assembly packaging of the aforementioned products occurs at a location not under the supervision of the Army Veterinary Inspector, the process shall be under the requirements of contractor-paid USDA,AMS,FV,PPB inspection. When dairy component powders (cocoa beverages, dairy shakes, flavored coffees, non-dairy creamer, etc), toaster pastries, or nut raisin mixes are packaged into finished product at the assembler's plant, in-process and final inspection will be under the requirements of contractor-paid USDA,AMS,FV,PPB inspection. Regardless of the Government agency having jurisdiction upon ascertaining compliance to contractual requirements at the supplier's production/assembly facility, a USDA laboratory will perform all Government verification testing. The contractor shall bear all expenses incident thereto, including costs of samples and all associated costs for preparation and mailing. Costs shall be assessed in accordance with the Government laboratory testing charges for individual test characteristics and number of tests required by the specification or contract. A list of fees may be obtained from the appropriate USDA laboratory.

E-2-G. Plan for the Inspection Job (PIJ)

(A.) Prior to initiating production of supplies, the contractor must furnish information to and cooperate in the completion by the QAR of DSCP Form 3587 (Plan for the Inspection Job (PIJ)) which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following data or information:

1. Detailed production schedule.
2. Lot size, lot presentation, and sampling procedures and techniques.
3. Facilities to be provided Government personnel.
4. Name(s) and title(s) of authorized contractor representatives.
5. Agreement that the cognizant quality assurance service will be notified in advance of each day's production so that arrangements can be made by the Government to have Quality Assurance Representatives (QAR) available.
6. Procedures for notification of critical defects, ex. swellers, leakers and/or excessive amounts of defects being found.

(B.) The PIJ prepared by the QAR is deemed complete and approved for the production of supplies as described therein when dated and signed by the contractor and the QAR. A copy of the completed and signed PIJ and subsequent revisions shall be submitted to DSCP-HROS. Preparation of this document may require preproduction/postaward conferences between Government and contractor representatives. The contractor shall sign and date the PIJ to signify agreement to all terms and conditions therein. Production of supplies shall not commence until the document is signed by both parties. The document may remain in effect for subsequent contracts provided it is reviewed (revised as necessary) at quarterly intervals, initialed and dated by the contractor and the QAR to certify currency. The document shall be revised/amended prior to production of new items not included in the basic document or whenever significant changes occur in contractual inspection documents that necessitate modification. When signed by both the contractor and the QAR, the PIJ document is contractually binding. Failure of the contractor to comply with the document will be reported by the QAR to the contracting officer for appropriate action for noncompliance with the inspection requirements of the contract. However, occasional minor deviations from the scheduled production hours or lot size(s) cited in the PIJ may be approved by the QAR for cogent reasons. The contractor shall make no changes in the approved PIJ document without submitting a written request detailing the change and receiving written approval from the QAR. In the event the contractor and the QAR cannot agree on any detail of the content of the document, the QAR shall refer the conflict to the contracting officer for resolution.

E-2-H. Traceability Requirements and Examination

The ration assembler shall maintain records identifying the menu components used in packing and assembling each end item lot. These records shall maintain traceability of components to the extent that a lot and contract number of a component can be traced to an assembled end item lot. The system should also enable the assembler to list component contract numbers and lots within a particular end item lot. The assembled end item lot, usually one day's production, shall be clearly identified on the exterior of each case. In addition, the

ration assembler shall maintain records of when and where assembled end item lots for a particular assembly contract have been shipped. The ration assembler shall provide the AVI (Army Veterinary Inspector) with a copy of the lot traceability records prior to shipment of each assembled lot. The following non-food items are exempt from traceability requirements: hand cleaner, matches, spoons and toilet tissue.

The purpose of the above, is to maintain traceability of a component lot through the assembly operation, in depot storage and up to the customer's receipt of the MRE ration. This is necessary in the event of a recall/ALFOODACT for DSCP to isolate suspect product in the depot system and to notify customers of potentially hazardous product.

In addition to the manual system described above, the ration assembler shall input traceability data on a daily basis into the computerized program. The ration assembler will input all traceability data daily, and provide a hard copy print out to veterinary personnel on a daily basis.

Each lot of assembled rations shall be examined to determine compliance with lot traceability requirements prior to shipment. The examination shall be accomplished by using the same sampling plan and samples examined under Section E, paragraph C. (4) Assembled meal bag examination of ACR-M-026. AQLs are not applicable for the traceability examination. The component lot numbers are recorded from the samples and compared against the lot traceability records provided by the assembler. A defective component lot number is a code which does not correlate with traceability records. Missing or illegible component lot numbers are not to be scored as defects unless there is reason to believe that the component represents a lot other than a lot listed by the traceability records. The finding of any defect will be cause for rejection of the lot.

E-2-I. Assembly of Mixed Code Lots

Mixed lots are small quantities of components representing different lots. These lots may be received from GFM or CFM contractors and/or may include component material from the salvage operation or other sources that has been determined to be conforming and authorized for use in assembly. Unit loads containing mixed code lots, shall be identified as such by the use of unit load marking panels. The unit load marking panels shall list all the lots contained on the pallet; they shall be affixed to two sides of the unit load. The assembly contractor may periodically assemble the mixed lots into one lot. Mixed lot components shall be exhausted by assembling them into a final lot at least once every quarter but maybe assembled into two consecutive production days if not more than once a month. For the purpose of precluding residual mixed lot components, all mixed lots components in-house prior to the final week of scheduling assembly production, shall be used in final assemblies delivered under this contract.

E-2-J. When the original lot of a component is still available at the assembly plant, components, including inspection samples, will be returned to their original lot for assembly into MRE finals.

E-2-K. Inspection and Acceptance

E-2-K-1. Inspection at Origin and Acceptance at Destination

In addition to the origin inspection specified above, the supplies delivered shall be subject to receipt inspection at destination in accordance with the following criteria:

All items delivered (CFM and GFM) will be inspected in accordance with the assembler's receipt inspection program as outlined in the assembler's Quality Systems Plan (QSP). The receipt inspection shall be, at a minimum, for count, condition, identity, and the presence of any internal infestation or foreign material. Any evidence of insect or rodent infestation, foreign material, or contamination shall be cause for rejection of the entire production lot.

Receipt examinations for pouch integrity (CFM and GFM) shall be performed in accordance with origin pouch examination criteria for each production lot of cheese spread and product packaged in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073. Samples for receipt inspection (200 samples items packed in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073) shall be selected throughout the lot at the destination point (applicable for entire lots or split lots). Mixed code lots as defined in the Technical Data Package will be considered as a single lot. Receipt inspection for pouch integrity of entire production lots or split lots from the origin producer to their own assembly plant located within the same state should be performed at their option or performed in accordance with the assembler's QSP. Other receipt inspections shall be at a minimum inspection level of S-3 of ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003. At no time may the assembler's receipt inspection be more severe than the origin inspection criteria for GFM. Defect classification shall correspond to the origin specification defect classification.

The contractor's receipt inspection program will be verified by the U. S. Army Veterinary Inspection (AVI) personnel at the assembly plant. Defects found on GFM deliveries will be verified by the AVI. Final responsibility for acceptance or rejection of GFM product will rest with the Government inspector, however, the Government may base its decision on the contractor's inspection results. In addition, the AVI may perform their own receipt inspection before making a final determination of acceptance or rejection of product. Any inspection failure shall be considered to be representative of the entire production lot and shall be cause for rejection of the entire production lot.

For wet pack fruit (including applesauce and spiced apples), abrasions at destination, found during the assemblers receipt inspection, may be classified as a major defect and accepted under an AQL, if the assembler so chooses. Each assembler would be required to specify in their QSP the AQL for the acceptance of abrasions, based on sampling size. If an assembler chooses not to accept abrasions as a major defect, they may leave the defect as critical, which would result in failure of the lot if found. AQLs for abrasions contained in the assembler's QSP must be approved by DSCP-FTRO. If the lot is not accepted at one destination due to an abrasion(s) and the lot is redelivered to a second destination without rework, the finding of an abrasion during receipt inspection will be cause for rejection of the entire lot.

Grand lotting of more than one production lot of homogeneous components within a shipment for the purpose of receipt inspection may be performed, except for pouch integrity as cited above. There will be no grand lotting of thermostabilized items (entrees, starches and soups, fruits) for pouch integrity inspection. When the total shipment is inspected as a single lot, the identity of the items must be maintained and samples must be drawn from each lot in proportion to its size. Homogeneous components are defined as follows items procured by identical prime documents (identical PCRs, Commercial Item Descriptions) except for items packaged in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073 and PCR-C-039.

The reliability of the contractor's receipt inspection system will be determined by the AVI in accordance with paragraph "Reliability Conditions" cited in the assembly solicitation. However, the frequency of verification of the contractor's receipt inspections will remain at the discretion of the Government.

E-2-K-2. Inspection at Destination and Acceptance at Destination (GFM Commercial Solicitation and Accessory Items):

This clause applies to GFM pan-coated candies, coffee (CID-AA-20184), sugar, and salt.

The supplies delivered shall be subject to receipt inspection at destination in accordance with the criteria cited in "Inspection at Origin and Acceptance at Destination" above. At no time may the receipt inspection be more severe than applicable origin inspection criteria. The contractor shall include a special package integrity inspection as part of the QSP for coffee, to be performed on a skip-lot basis by means of a dry bell jar,

desiccator, or similar apparatus. (See footnote 4/ following “Receipt Inspection Table of Defects” below.) This special package integrity inspection is in addition to the normal visual package inspection cited in the QSP. The special package integrity inspection may be conducted at a rate of one in every ten lots delivered, without replacement of lots into the sample pool. In the event that Government inspection of GFM commercial components is necessary, product not having existing origin inspection criteria will be examined by using the inspection criteria and tables cited below. The following tables apply to Government inspection, however, if the contractor so elects, the contractor may voluntarily incorporate these tables into the QSP and indicate their use in the QSP.

(1.) Examination for Condition

The sample unit shall be one primary container. Lot size shall be expressed as number of units per delivery shipment received at one time. The inspection level shall be S-3, normal, single, and AQLs shall be 0.65 for Major B defects, and 2.5 for Minor defects. The inspection level for defects 153 and 154 shall be S-2, normal, single, and AQL shall be 1.5, Sampling shall be in accordance with ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003

Receipt Inspection Table of Defects 1/	
Category	Defect
Major B	Minor
151	Not clean. <u>2/</u>
152	Loss of package integrity, such as tear, hole, open seal or sifter. <u>3/</u> , <u>4/</u>
153	Texture, odor, color or flavor change. <u>5/</u>
154	Broken oxygen scavenger, or pouch does not contain oxygen scavenger (when required). <u>5/</u>
	201 Marking on shipping case incorrect, missing, illegible or does not represent contents.
	202 Labeling on package missing, illegible or does not represent contents.

1/ Any evidence of insect or rodent infestation, foreign material or contamination shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

2/ Outer package shall be free from foreign matter which is unwholesome has the potential to cause pouch damage (i.e.,glass metal filings, etc.,) or generally detracts from the clean appearance of the pouch. The following examples shall not be scored as unclean:

- a. Foreign matter which represents no health hazard or potential pouch damage and which can readily be removed by gently shaking the pouch or by gently brushing the pouch with a clean, dry cloth.
- b. Dried product which affects less than 1/8 of the total surface of one pouch face (localized or aggregate).
- c. Water spots.

3/ A sifter is a pouch which loses any amount of contents when shaken vigorously.

4/ Open seals may be determined by placing samples in a bell jar, desiccator, or similar apparatus by which a vacuum may be drawn (use no more than 15 inches of mercury for 30 seconds), after closed package visual examination and prior to open package examination, in order to determine if seals are intact. Any package that does not swell to a tightly distended form shall be classified as a defect.

5/ Open package examination; samples drawn for closed package inspection may be used.

(2.) Examination for Count per Shipping Container 1/.

Examination shall be in accordance with the inspection criteria and table below. The sample unit shall be one shipping container. Lot size shall be expressed as number of units per delivery shipment received at one time. The inspection level shall be S-1 and AQLs shall be 6.5 for minor defects. Sampling shall be in accordance with ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003.

Count Examination Table of Defects	
Category	Defect
Minor 201	Less than 95% of specified quantity 1/

1/ The lot shall be rejected if sample data indicates a lot average count less than indicated on the container.

(3.) Examination for Identity

Examination will be performed to determine if the item conforms to the product description cited in “Section C” of this document and is the shipment described on the shipping document. This examination will be done in conjunction with the examination for count set above, using the samples drawn for that examination. However the AQL is not applicable for this examination. The finding of one or more nonconforming containers shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

In addition, inspection shall be performed to determine identity and the presence of any internal infestation. This inspection will be an open package inspection. One package, from each sample case selected for the count examination, will be opened for examination. The finding of one or more nonconforming containers shall be cause for rejection of the lot. This examination will be done in conjunction with the examination for count set out above, using the samples drawn for that examination. However the AQL is not applicable for this examination. Finding of one or more nonconforming containers shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

E-2-L. In the event the assembler is also a manufacturer of component(s) of the MRE, the requirements of paragraphs E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, and E-5 are required where applicable to components being manufactured.

E-2-M. Subcontracts

(1.) The contractor agrees that the Government shall have the right to perform a source inspection of components to be used in the manufacture of the supplies covered herein whenever the contracting officer deems such an inspection appropriate; where source inspection requires the additional consent to inspection from subcontractor, the contractor agrees to obtain such consent.

(2.) In addition to obtaining consent to inspection from subcontractors, the prime contractor agrees to stipulate the applicable inspection provisions cited in paragraphs E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, and E-5 as requirements in the contract(s) with the subcontractor(s).

(3.) The prime contractor shall furnish with his offer a written certificate to the contracting officer as to the name of the subcontractor(s) utilized, including location and item procured. This includes the suppliers of the flameless ration heaters and packaging and packing materials requiring source inspection by the DCMAO Quality Assurance Representatives. In the event the listing needs to be revised after award is made, the prime contractor shall furnish a revised listing to the Contracting Officer.

(4.) The prime contractor shall be responsible for the performance of all subcontractors. The prime contractor shall impose the responsibility for quality control, inspection, and providing inspection records on subcontractors, as required to insure compliance with specifications and conformance to contract requirements. Such inspections shall be accomplished by contractors, subcontractors, or when required by the applicable federal inspection agency at contractor or subcontractor expense. However, to the extent that the offerer does propose to utilize subcontractors for the performance of this contract, determination by the Contracting Officer of the prospective subcontractor's responsibility will be necessary in order to determine the responsibility of the offerers; and this determination of responsibility shall be based on the same factors as are applicable to the determination of the responsibility of the offerer.

(5.) To enable the contracting officer to make a determination of responsibility, each offerer must furnish with his offer the name and address of each subcontractor from whom it proposes to obtain the component(s).

E-3. Quality Assurance Requirements for Ration Assembler, Ration Component Production Plants and Ration Sub Assembly and Assembly Plants.

E-3-A. For entrees, starches and soups, and fruits procured as contractor furnished material (CFM) components, when the manufacturer is the prime contractor (assembler), or a subcontractor, origin inspection shall be contractor paid USDA,AMS,FV,PPB inspection in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P09. Optional contractor testing is provided by the alternate inspection requirements DSCP Clause 52.246-9P10. When permitted by the applicable food component specification, a Certificate of Conformance (COC) for ingredients shall be provided in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P20.

E-3-A-1. Quality Assurance Provisions for MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches.

(A.) Definitions

1. Critical defect. A critical defect is a defect that judgment and experience indicate would result in hazardous or unsafe conditions for individuals using the item.

2. Major defect. A major defect is a defect, other than critical, that is likely to result in failure, or to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose.

3. Minor defect. A minor defect is a defect that is not likely to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose, or is a departure from established standards having little bearing on the effective use or operation of the unit.

(B.) Quality Assurance Provisions

1. Quality Assurance Criteria. The following quality assurance criteria, utilizing ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes are applicable. The paragraph numbers listed below relate to the applicable paragraph in the specification (MIL-PRF-44073).

A. 4.1.1 Pouch material testing. The pouch material shall be examined for the characteristics listed in table I. The lot size, sample unit, and inspection level criteria are provided for each of the test characteristics. Any test failure shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

TABLE I-B. Pouch Material Quality Assurance Criteria

Characteristic	Lot size unit	Sample unit	Inspection level
Oxygen transmission rate	1 yard	1/2 yard	S-1
Water vapor transmission rate	1 yard	1/2 yard	S-1
Camouflage	1 yard	1/2 yard	S-1
Thermal processing	1 pouch	1 pouch	S-2
Environmental conditions	1 pouch	1 pouch	S-2

B. 4.2 Examination of pouch. The pouches shall be examined for the defects listed in table II of MIL-PRF-44073. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one thermal processed pouch. The inspection level shall be I and the acceptable quality level (AQL), expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65 for major A defects, 2.5 for major B defects, and 4.0 for minor defects. **Two hundred sample units shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.**

C. Filled and sealed pouch testing. The filled and sealed thermoprocessed or hot-fill processed pouches shall be tested for the characteristics listed in table IV, Filled and sealed pouch tests. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one pouch. Any test failure shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

TABLE IV Filled and sealed pouch tests

Characteristic	Requirement paragraph	Test method	Inspection level
Residual gas volume (classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 only)	3.1.4.1	4.3.6	S-2
Internal pressure	3.1.4.3	4.3.7	S-2 <u>1/</u>
Sterility (classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 only)	3.1.5.1	4.3.8	<u>2/</u>

1/ When a three-seal tester is used, a separate set of samples is required for testing of the closure seal.

2/ Select a minimum of one pouch from each retort load. Select pouches from different areas within the retort. For a continuous cooking process, an inspection level of S-3 shall be used to establish sample size.

D. **4.2.1 Examination of pouch and carton assembly.** The completed pouch and carton assemblies shall be examined for the defects listed in table III of MIL-PRF-44073. The lot size shall be expressed in units of completed assemblies. The sample unit shall be one pouch and carton assembly. The inspection level shall be S-3 and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65 for major defects and 2.5 for minor defects. **Fifty sample pouch and carton assemblies shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.**

E-3-A-2. Additional Quality Assurance Provisions for MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches

The following procedures for sampling and inspection shall also be applied when an end-item's filled and sealed pouch examination is required to be performed in accordance with paragraph 4.2, "Examination of pouch", of MIL-PRF-44073. These procedures shall be applied to inspection results where critical defects are a determining factor in the rejection of a lot.

Change in severity of inspection shall be based on the critical defect category and determined by component type, regardless of lot size. For Normal inspection the sample size shall be 200 sample units and for Tightened inspection 315 sample units examined for critical defects and the finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot. Normal inspection will be used at the start of inspection. Normal inspection shall continue unchanged for the critical category of defects on successive lots except where the procedures given in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes, require a change in the severity of the inspection, from Normal to Tightened. The procedures given in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003 shall be used to switch from Tightened inspection to Normal inspection. There will be no "reduced" inspection option. The Government has the right to discontinue Government inspection as cited in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003 or the MPC clause or both.

1. The Government QAR will notify the contractor of a change in the severity of inspection as a result of Government origin inspections. The contractor is required to perform inspections which provide the same risk (equal or better) as those performed by the Government (ex: the contractor must select for end item examination, as a minimum, the same number of samples selected by the Government for end item inspection).

2. Upon notification by the Government QAR of change of severity of inspection from Normal to Tightened, the contractor shall submit a corrective action plan to the Government QAR and the Contracting Officer. Government QAR will withhold inspection of lots produced after notification until corrective action plan is received and approved. The corrective action plan shall contain, as a minimum, the following:

- A. Root cause of the deficiency.
- B. Action taken to correct the deficiency.
- C. Action taken to correct and prevent recurrence of root cause of deficiency.
- D. Corrective action effectivity date(s).
- E. Contractor, subcontractor, or supplier representative responsible for implementing corrective action.

As authorized by the Contracting Officer. Discontinuation of inspection may be invoked by the Contracting Officer when there is a pending action against a contractor to improve the quality of the submitted product/material, a contractor fails to submit a corrective action plan, and/or a corrective action plan is not effective in correcting or in preventing recurrence of root cause of the deficiency.

In addition to the above, the Contracting Officer, at his discretion, may invoke increased inspection for critical defects at origin and/or destination when determined to be in the best interest of the Government.

E-3-A-3. Additional Requirements for Entrées, Starches and Soups, and Fruits Analytical/Nutrient Content Testing

The following applies to the nutrient content testing for entrees, starches and soups, and fruits found in the Performance-based Contract Requirements (PCR):

a. Replenishment Sample Lots: Replenishment sample lots will be contractor and Government tested for compliance with all analytical requirements.

b. Applicable to Fat and Salt Content Testing: The composite sample shall be prepared and analyzed in accordance with the latest edition of the Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International (OMA) as cited in the PCR. If an AOAC method does not specify specific times, temperatures, or methodology for preparation of a sample, preparation of samples shall be as follows: The unopened pouches shall be gently warmed in a 140°F water bath for 15 minutes to melt fat adhering to the inside of the pouches. The pouches shall be composited in a Waring blender or equivalent.

E-3-B. Quality Assurance Provisions and Packaging Requirements for Other Food Components

For other food components, when the finished product packager is the prime contractor (assembler), or a subcontractor, origin inspection shall be contractor paid USDA,AMS,FV,PPB inspection in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P09, except as specified in E-2-F and except for the following items: pan-coated candies, hot sauce, chewing gum, salt, coffee (CID-AA-20184), and sugar. Optional contractor testing is provided by the alternate inspection requirements DSCP Clause 52.246-9P10. When permitted by the applicable food component specification, a Certificate of Conformance (COC) for ingredients shall be provided in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P20. Compliance with applicable Performance-based Contract Requirements (PCR) or Commercial Item Description (CID) requirements will be determined by the contractor and by the GQAR on the finished product in accordance with the applicable provisions in the PCR, CID, solicitation, contract, and purchase order and their applicable Quality Assurance Provisions and Packaging Requirements.

End Item Testing. Compliance with applicable Performance-based Contract Requirements (PCR) or Commercial Item Description (CID) requirements will be determined by the contractor and by the GQAR on the finished product in accordance with the applicable provisions in the PCR, CID, solicitation, contract, and purchase order and their applicable Quality Assurance Provisions and Packaging Requirements. Regardless of the Government agency having jurisdiction upon ascertaining compliance to contractual requirements at the supplier's production/assembly facility, a USDA laboratory will perform all Government verification testing. The contractor shall bear all expenses incident thereto, including costs of samples and all associated costs for preparation and mailing. Costs shall be assessed in accordance with the Government laboratory testing charges for individual test characteristics and number of tests required by the specification or contract. A list of fees may be obtained from the appropriate USDA laboratory.

E-3-C. Quality Assurance Requirements for Bulk Packed CFM Accessory Items, Bulk Packed CFM Food Items, and Bulk Packed CFM Non-Food Items.

When the above items are procured as CFM, verification inspection by the Government may be performed at destination in accordance with origin requirements or the contractors QSP receipt inspection provisions and to include, at a minimum, an inspection for count, condition, and identity, the presence of any internal infestation or the presence of foreign material. In addition, the Government may inspect the manufacturer's product at destination by comparison with samples of the manufacturer's product selected from commercial distribution channels.

The supplies or services furnished under the contract shall be covered by the most favorable commercial warranties the contractor gives to any customer for such supplies or services and the rights and remedies provided therein are in addition to and do not limit any rights afforded to the Government by the Supply Warranty Clause 52.246-9P35.

Bulk packed, as used in this paragraph, means packing prior to finished product packaging.

E-3-D. Quality Assurance Requirements for Ration Supplement Flameless Heater, for Meal, Ready-to-eat (FRH):

(1.) In order to ensure delegation of authority for Government quality assurance support, the following information shall be provided to the Contracting Officer by the contractor after award of the contract and prior to start of production:

Name, address and point of contact of FRH manufacturer

(2.) The following information shall be provided to the contractor by the Contracting Officer at such time as the contractor furnishes the above information:

Name and address of Defense Contract Management Area Office (DCMAO) having quality assurance cognizance at the FRH manufacturer's plant.

(3.) DCMAO shall provide the quality assurance support for the contract on the behalf of the Government at the FRH manufacturer's plant. The contractor through their FRH manufacturer is responsible for arranging for the quality assurance support by DCMAO. Contractor shall perform or have performed all examinations and tests indicated by the applicable specification(s).

(4.) When the FRH is procured as contractor furnished material, FAR Clause 52.246-2, FAR Clause 52.246-11, Higher Level Quality Requirements, Clause 52.246-9001, and Statistical Process Controls are applicable. The plans shall be prepared, submitted, reviewed, evaluated, and verified in accordance with the provisions cited in paragraphs E-1, above, except that the appropriate DCAMO shall have cognizance for the support of the Government's quality assurance requirements. The regulations, file codes, etc. of the respective agency are applicable to the contract in conjunction with the quality assurance requirements of the contract. One copy of the FRH manufacturer's Higher Level Quality Systems Plan and SPC plan shall be submitted to DSCP-FTRAA and one copy of the plan shall be provided to the DCMAO QAR assigned to the FRH manufacturer's plant.

(5.) The particular quality assurance requirements cited in paragraphs E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, and E-5 as applicable are required for this item, with exception of E-4-E and E-4-F.

E-3-E. ADDITIONAL DAIRY COMPONENT POWDERS USDA REQUIREMENT

For dairy component powders (cocoa beverages, dairy shakes, flavored coffees, non-dairy creamer, etc), all processing and packaging plant(s) and all plants providing dairy ingredients to the dairy shake processing plant, must be approved by the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Dairy Grading Branch, Washington, DC 20250 under 7 CFR, Part 58 prior to the start of production. Contractors are responsible for obtaining such inspection and approval as early as necessary in order to meet contract delivery schedules. For information, please contact the inspection services of USDA-AMS, Dairy Grading Branch, telephone (202) 720-3171 or (630) 790-6920. Note to contracting officer: The proper code for the responsible USDA inspection office is DQ0-31. When the finished product packaging facility is over-wrapping commercially wrapped and labeled product, USDA, AMS, Dairy Grading Branch approval of the finished product packaging facility is not required.

E-4. Quality Assurance Requirements for Ration Assembler, Ration Component Production Plants and Ration Sub Assembly and Assembly Plants.

E-4-A. Packaging and Packing Materials

Packaging components (e.g., fiberboard shipping boxes, cartons, rollstock, preformed pouches, packets, accessory and menu sub assembly pack bags, material & menu bags, strapping materials, fiberboard caps, adhesive, tape) are subject to DSCP Clause 52.246-9P20. The Government QAR shall have the responsibility for verifying COC's as necessary. Any inspections required by the specifications may be performed by the Government to assure compliance with the specifications. DSCP Clause 52.246-9P20 shall also apply to bond strength tests on retort pouches.

E-4-B. General Inspection (Examination/Testing) Requirements

(A.) When contractor determines as a result of his inspection(s) or QSP, or is informed by the QAR as a result of verification inspection, that the supplies do not conform to contractual requirements, he has the following alternatives:

1. Produce and inspect a new lot.
2. Screen or rework and reoffer conforming supplies (provided screening or reworking is not detrimental to the product and does not conflict with other requirements, e.g. time, temperature, etc.) See "Rework of Nonconforming Product Pre or Post Acceptance" for applicable situations.
3. Request the Contracting Officer to consider acceptance of the nonconforming supplies in accordance with paragraph "Request for Rework, Request for Waiver, Request for Deviation, or Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies".
4. When valid technical reason(s) exist for suspecting the verity of the inspection results, request the Contracting Officer's permission to reinspect the supplies without screening or reworking. The request must be made in writing in accordance with paragraph "Request for Rework, Request for Waiver, Request for Deviation, or Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies". Any lot with one or more valid critical/major A defect(s) will not be reinspected without reworking or screening of all units. Examples of valid technical reasons are:
 - A. After finding the lot nonconforming for net weight, it is discovered that the scales used for the inspection were out of adjustment or
 - B. After finding the lot nonconforming for a chemical test characteristic, it is discovered that a chemical used in the analysis has deteriorated or had not been properly prepared.

(B.) The contractor may petition the Government (through the Contracting Officer) for skip lot or a reduction in verification inspection at such time that the contractor believes his quality program is fully acceptable and reliable. There will be no "skip lot" or "reduced" inspection option for critical defects.

E-4-C. Government verification inspection and testing (conducted by the GQAR or Government laboratory) shall be withheld, at a minimum, until the contractor's completed inspection results are presented to the Government's Quality Assurance Representative (GQAR). Unless otherwise authorized, in writing, by the contracting officer, the GQAR and/or Government laboratory shall not perform Government verification inspection/testing unless the contractor's lot submittal package (inspection/test results-including analytical testing) provided to the GQAR indicates conformance to ALL contractual requirements

E-4-D. Operational Ration Component Lot Number and Lot Inspection

The component lot number for thermostabilized (retorted) products packaged in flexible pouches shall be defined as the Julian lot number assigned at the origin manufacturer's plant and the inspection lot shall include only product produced in one work-shift. For products packaged in tray pack containers (metal/poly) and other products (including the FRH and final assembled lots), a lot number is defined as the quantity of finished product produced/assembled within a production day (Julian date) and the inspection lot shall include product produced in no more than one production/assembly day. The Government QAR reserves the right to separate an inspection lot into smaller inspection lots. The Sample for Government and contractor's end item lot inspection may be drawn after all units comprising the lot have been produced or samples may be drawn during production of the lot. If stratified sampling is utilized (drawing sub-samples from each sub-lot/sub-code during

production of the lot), the sub-samples must be drawn at random from the sub-lot and not inspected until all the sub-samples are combined to make up the complete sample for the applicable lot size (the formation of the lot and lot size is defined as the manner in which the lot is to be presented for Government end item verification inspection).

E-4-E. Production Standard Replenishment for Food Items:

Acceptable PDMs will be used as production standards by both the Contractor and the Government. The approval of any PDM will not constitute waiver of the requirement that all delivered product must meet all other contractual requirements such as but not limited to analytical requirements, physical requirements, microbiological requirements, and/or performance requirements.

Every 12 months, the Government Quality Assurance Representative (GQAR) will randomly select 32 replenishment samples for Natick and 70 replenishment samples for the Government's supply at origin from a lot accepted by the Government for all contractual requirements. The Contractor will be responsible for shipment to Natick. This replenishment may occur earlier if necessary to ensure an adequate supply of PDM samples. The Contractor will also use samples from this same lot as the production standard."

E-4-F. Periodic Review Samples

All food components that are inspected by the Government will be subject to periodic review sampling and examination/testing during contract production in accordance with the following criteria: The GQAR (USDA Inspector) will randomly select nine sample units of each item produced (each type, flavor, etc.) throughout each month's production. The GQAR (Army Veterinary Inspector) will randomly select three sample units of each item produced (each type, flavor, etc.) throughout each month's production. The GQARs shall provide the samples to the contractor's representative, who will ship them to the following addresses at the contractor's expense once per month:

Six samples selected by GQAR (USDA) will be sent to:

HEAD, DEFENSE CONTRACT INSPECTION SECTION
USDA,AMS,FFV,PPB (202) 720-5021
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE. SW
STOP 0247
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-0247

Three samples selected by GQAR will be sent to:

COMMANDER
NATICK SOLDIER CENTER
ATTN: AMSRD-NSC-CR-F
15 KANSAS STREET
NATICK, MA 01760-5018

E-4-G. Alternative Skip-Lot End-Item Inspection Requirements for Government End-Item Verification Inspections for Operational Rations.

The “Procedures for Alternative Skip-Lot End Item Inspection Requirements for Government End Item Verification Inspections for Operational Rations”, dated March 2001, are applicable to current and future contracts. The switching procedures cited in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection and Attributes shall not be used for Government verification inspections. For products requiring a drained weight examination, the following is also required: The contractor shall provide the Government Quality Assurance Representative (GQAR) a copy of the current production standard (PDM/First Article) formula (including ratios of ingredients), and formulation records for each production lot submitted for Government end item verification inspection. The GQAR shall initiate skip-lot inspection based on Government verification inspections results of each product and notification that the contractor’s Quality System Plan (QSP) was rated acceptable by DSCP-FTRO. The Government verification inspection may be further decreased (e.g., skip-lot inspection frequency 1 in 6, 1 in 10, etc.) by the Contracting Officer if he/she determines that this is in the best interest of the Government or he/she may discontinue skip-lot inspection for Government verification inspection if it is determined that skip lot is not in the best Interest of the Government.

The sampling plans switching procedures cited in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection and Attributes, are authorized to be used only by the contractors during the performance of contractor’s end item verification inspections. Producers using the switching procedures, cited in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4, during the performance of their end item inspections must train personnel and follow **all of the switching rules** cited in the standard. As indicated in the standard, the sampling scheme is a combination of sampling plans with switching procedures, and each sampling plan has its own set of rules by which a lot is to be inspected and accepted or rejected. Samples may be drawn after all units comprising the lot have been produced or samples may be drawn during production of the lot. However, for those contractors that are using stratified sampling (drawing subsamples from each subplot during production of the lot), the subsamples must be drawn at random from the subplot and not inspected until all the subsamples are combined to make-up the complete sample for the applicable lot size (the formation of the lot and lot size is defined as the manner in which the lot is to be presented for Government end item verification inspection in accordance with paragraph “Operational Ration Component Lot Numbers”). All other inspection procedures must be reviewed by the GQAR, included in the QSP, and approved by the Contracting Officer. The producer’s end item verification inspection results must be well documented and the GQAR must be informed in advance of the specific switching procedure (normal, tightened, reduced) being utilized for each product qualified under the standard.

E-4-H. Rework Of Nonconforming Product Pre or Post Acceptance

Rework Of Nonconforming Product: The Government QAR must be informed and provided documentation of all rework results when product is presented for Government verification inspection or prior to Government inspection as indicated below.

Corrective Action (Rework/Screen Inspections) Taken Prior To Government Verification Inspection (Receipt, In-Process And End-Item Inspections): Unless otherwise specified below, all reworks and screening inspections conducted prior to the Government verification inspection do not require approval from the Government. Although the GQAR must be informed of all reworks, the contractor is not required to obtain approval to take corrective and preventive action as deemed necessary to ensure compliance with contractual requirements. For reworks requiring the Government's approval (as specified below), the contractor may submit a standard rework procedure (SRP), for certain defects, under the contractor's documented QSP section XIII Corrective and Preventive Action Program. The SRPs must be specific and these must be evaluated by DSCP-FTRA/FTRU, FTRO, and approved by the applicable contracting officer.

NOTE: All requests for rework shall be accompanied with a comprehensive rework plan. The rework plan will include rational information and data that supports the rework plan and ensures the elimination of nonconforming material from the lot. When a contractor determines as a result of his end item inspection(s) or QSP that supplies do not conform to contractual requirements and the supplies cannot be reworked (such as drained weight, viscosity, piece size, residual air, etc), he has the alternative to request the Contracting Officer for a waiver for the nonconforming requirement. If the Contracting Officer approves the waiver request for a specific requirement, the written waiver approval shall be provided to the GQAR when the supplies are presented for Government Verification Inspection (the skip-lot inspection does not apply in this case). The GQAR shall only inspect the supplies for compliance with all requirements of the contract, except the waived requirement. The Contracting Officer, in special circumstances, may request nonconforming supplies to be inspected by the GQAR, after the waiver for the nonconforming requirement has been provisionally approved, to determine severity of nonconformance only. Due to the type of statistical sampling cited in the contract, under no circumstances shall a lot found nonconforming by the contractor be inspected by the GQAR to determine conformance to a requirement that has previously been established as nonconforming by the contractor's inspection. After any lot's failure or rework, if the lot is reinspected, it will be both Contractor and Government inspected at the next higher sample size.

B. The Following Reworks Must Be Coordinated With The Supervisory GQAR And Approved By The Applicable DSCP-FTR Office.

1. Insect or Rodent Infestation/Contamination: Reworks must be approved by FTRO entomologists.

2. Food Safety and Foreign Material: All corrective actions for product retained due to foreign material and/or processed/unprocessed container mix-ups must be approved by FTRA or FTRU as applicable. Thermal process deviations or deviations from the preparation, formulation or critical factors cited in the approved process schedule must be accompanied by a detailed letter from the plant's Processing Authority. The involved subcode(s), the deviation, and the disposition of the product shall be clearly identified when the complete lot is presented for Government end item verification inspection. If the producer fails to provide enough information/data in the case of a deviation, the GQAR shall contact FTRA or FTRU for approval to proceed with the Government end item verification inspection. These requirements are in addition to applicable Code of Federal Regulations or other regulatory requirements (USDA-FSIS, FDA).

“Retesting/reinspection/rework of product that tested positive for food borne pathogens (salmonella, e. coli, etc.) is not authorized.”

Note: Deviations (that occur during or prior to the production of a product) from specific preparation/formulation/ingredient requirements cited in the specifications shall be submitted as a request for product deviation and must be approved and coordinated with the Specification Preparing Activity (Natick) through the applicable contracting officer.

3. Tray Pack Can Seam: Reworks must be approved by FTRUT.

4. Critical Pouch Defects: All reworks due to critical pouch defects noted during the Government final lot end item verification inspection, producer's end item inspection, Government or assembler receipt inspection, or when the established action number/level (as cited in the contractor's QSP) is exceeded during the in-process assembly operation must be approved by FTRAA or FTRAC unless a 100% open carton rework is conducted at source or at the assembler. All pouches exhibiting same or other pouch integrity defects must be removed

during the 100% open carton rework and noted on the rework paperwork. Reworked lots will be inspected or re-inspected as applicable, by the GQAR at the location of the rework using the next larger sample size (for example, from 200 samples to 315, or if a second rework, from 316 samples to 500 samples). Rework results must be included with other paperwork when the lot is presented for Government end item verification inspection.

5. Second Time Reworks: All second time reworks must be approved by the applicable FTR office.

6. Nonconformances Noted During The Government End Item Verification Inspection: All rework requests submitted for defects noted during Government verification end item verification inspections must be approved by the applicable contracting officer.

C. Contractor's Quality History:

1. Effectiveness of corrective actions (rework/screen inspections) taken by the contractor prior to Government end item verification inspection (receipt, in-process and contractor's end-item inspections) will be determined by the results of the end item verification inspection performed by the GQAR. **Corrective actions taken to ensure compliance with the contractual requirements prior to the Government end item verification inspection will not be counted against the contractor's quality history.** If product is found conforming during the Government end item verification inspection, the corrective action will be determined to have been effective. However, all requests for waivers and product deviations will be counted.

2. If product is found nonconforming during the Government end item verification inspection following contractor corrective action for the same defect (or defect category in case of critical pouch defects) for which the contractor took a corrective action, the corrective action will be determined to have been ineffective. In addition to any action taken, the contractor must reevaluate their documented QSP and/or the implemented corrective and preventive action program by an internal audit and results must be submitted to FTRO (Systems Audit Program Manager). **All corrective actions (rework/screening inspections, etc.) taken by the contractor due to a Government end item verification inspection rejection will be documented in the contractor's quality history records.**

NOTE: If the contractor elects to rework nonconforming product, it must be reworked and reoffered within 30 days from date of initial rejection.

NOTE: All requests for rework shall be accompanied with a comprehensive rework plan. The rework plan will include rational information and data that supports the rework plan and ensures the elimination of nonconforming material from the lot. See "Request for Rework, Request for Waiver, Request for Deviation, or Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies".

E-4-I. Request for Rework, Request for Waiver, Request for Deviation, or Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies

(A.) When contractor inspection or QSP, or Government verification by the QAR, reveals a process deviation or nonconforming lot, the contractor's written request for deviation, waiver, rework or reinspection of the nonconforming lot(s) must be furnished, as appropriate to the Contracting Officer and cognizant Government QAR and shall at a minimum contain the following:

1. Contractor's name and address.

2. Contract number, lot number(s), and quantity.
3. Item nomenclature and NSN, whether a component or end item.
4. Specification number, table/paragraph number, sample size, AC/REJ number(s), defect number(s), number of defects. Identify the pouch codes of defective units.
5. Classification of defects: Critical _____ Major _____ Minor _____
6. Cause of nonconformance or deviation, and corrective and preventive action.
 - a) State the root cause of the deficiency.
 - b) State the corrective action and the preventive action contractor has taken/will take to preclude recurrence.
 - c) If preventive action is not possible, state why.
7. If deviation/nonconformance is of a recurring nature, the frequency of occurrence and date/contract/lot number of last occurrence.
8. Effect on cost/price.
9. Effect on delivery schedule.
10. Full justification for request for deviation, waiver, rework or reinspection.
11. Submit in-process data (MPC,SPC), and contractor and Government end-item records for the involved lot(s). Submit retort records, copy of process schedule and letter from Processing Authority if a process deviation.
12. Applicable to the defect found or class of defects for critical defects, identify the situations where the lot exceeded control limits (out-of-control, exceeded action level or number) according to in-process records (MPC, SPC), and identify the corrective actions taken for each instance.

NOTE: All requests for rework shall be accompanied with a comprehensive rework plan. The rework plan will include rational information and data that supports the rework plan and ensures the elimination of nonconforming material from the lot. After any lot's failure or rework, if the lot is reinspected, it will be both Contractor and Government inspected at the next higher sample size.

(B.) When a valid technical reason for reinspection is offered and permission is granted by the PCO, the contractor shall take corrective action to eliminate the cause of the inspection revealed failure; reinspect the nonreworked lot after taking the corrective action, and evaluate the results of the initial inspection and the reinspection by means of recognized statistical methods.

1. If the statistical tests reveal no significant difference between the results of the two inspections, acceptability will be based on reinspection results. A significant difference is one that is real and not due to chance variation. Statistically, a difference which has a 0.05 probability of occurring by chance alone is usually considered a significant difference.

2. If such statistical tests reveal no significant difference between the results of the two inspections, both results will be reported to the Contracting Officer.

A. The results of the two inspections will be averaged and acceptability will be based on whether the resulting average meets the requirement, when the requirement is an average (variable) requirement.

B. The results of the initial (original) inspection will be the basis for the acceptability decision when the requirement is a unit (attribute) requirement.

E-4-J. Reliability Conditions

(A.) The Government may perform verification inspection (examination, testing or both) to assure that the inspection performed or certificates furnished by the contractor are reliable. Initially, the amount of verification inspection may equal the amount of inspection performed by the contractor. It is the intent of

the Government to be able to rely on the contractor so that the amount of verification may be reduced accordingly. In the event the Government determines by means of verification inspection, surveillance of the contractor's inspection activity, or the submission by the contractor to the Government of nonconforming supplies that the contractor's inspection results or certificates from any plant are not reliable, the Government reserves the right to increase the rate or amount of verification inspection to and including full lot-by-lot inspection and to charge the contractor for the costs incurred for any or all Government examinations and tests performed on supplies from the plant/plants determined to be unreliable after such time as the contractor is advised in writing of the particular inspection concerning which his unreliability is established. In addition, the Government reserves the right to sample and inspect for compliance with contract requirements all supplies produced for the Government remaining in the contractor's facilities at the time of notification in an other than reliable status, even though said supplies may have been produced prior to receipt of notification. It is to be especially noted that the Government is contracting for a complete and reliable inspection system as well as a product conforming to all requirements of the contractual document(s). When any element of the contractor inspection system (a particular test or examination of the end item or component) has been determined to be unreliable, the Government reserves the right to consider the inspection system as a whole unreliable, and to return to full lot-by-lot verification (and charge therefore) for each and every examination and test. Examination and testing by the Government and charges to the contractor will continue until such time as the contractor's reliability is again established to the satisfaction of the Contracting Officer. Evaluation of contractor's examination results and review of test results will be accomplished by the QAR. Final evaluation of contractor's test results will be accomplished by DSCP-FTRAA and DSCP-FTRO, Directorate of Subsistence.

(B.) The Government QAR may perform verification inspection on any of the lots presented by the contractor to determine if the inspection results reported by the contractor are a reliable indication of product quality. Verification inspection results may be compared with product acceptance criteria set forth in the contract and/or with contractor inspection results for the purpose of determining if verification inspection performed by the Government QAR may be reduced. This reduction in Government verification inspection may be effected through less frequent inspection (skip lot/modified skip lot), reduced severity of inspection, or both. Contracting Officer's approval must be section obtained before switching the degree of inspection severity to reduced inspection even though all criteria have been met.

(C.) Unless otherwise specified in the contract, verification inspection performed by the QAR will be in accordance with the specification Quality Assurance Provisions regardless of any approved alternative procedures employed by the contractor.

(D.) Unless otherwise specified, when the contractor inspection results have been determined to be unreliable, the next determination as to reliability will be made:

1. For examination characteristics. After the production and examination of not less than three or more than five lots.

2. For test characteristics. After six day's production or after the number of days necessary to produce and test six inspection lots, whichever is greater.

NOTE: During the period the contractor's test system is considered unreliable, supplies will be accepted or rejected on the basis of Government laboratory test results.

3. For Certificate of Conformance. After two inspection lots of component items, except that return to a reliable status will be based on conformance of a component item to requirements if inspection results are not submitted by the contractor.

(E.) After a contractor has been notified that his inspection system has been found to be unreliable, the status or unreliability will continue until the Government notifies the contractor that a reevaluation has been completed and the results indicate that the inspection system is considered as regaining a reliable status. In addition to the requirements in paragraphs E-4-J-(D) 1, 2, or 3, time will be required by the Government to review the contractor's results by the evaluators, complete verification inspection, perform statistical analysis, and to notify the contractor. The contractor will be charged for costs incurred by the Government for inspecting lots (including costs associated with sampling) used for evaluating reestablishment of an acceptable inspection system status.

(F.) Whenever considered necessary as an aid in determining reliability of contractor inspection, the Government will determine, by the use of recognized statistical methods, if there is a significant difference between inspection results furnished by the contractor and the results of verification inspection.

(G.) Supplies, which have been found nonconforming by the contractor, may be subjected to special Government verification examination of the lot or lots in question. The verification examination results for each such lot so selected will be compared with the contractor's results using the lot-by-lot comparability determination procedure for reliability only and shall not be used for acceptance or rejection of production lots.

(H.) In the event the Government elects not to perform verification inspection prior to delivery and acceptance, payment will not be delayed provided the contractor's inspection results indicate the end item and components (including packaging, unitization, packing, labeling and marking materials) conform to the specification requirements, and further provided that said results are presented in the manner prescribed herein.

(I.) Normally, verification inspection will be performed on a stationary lot basis, regardless of physical location, at any time prior to acceptance. Warehousing charges for labor, reconditioning, and any other such costs incident to sampling for examination and/or testing will be borne by the contractor, except when examination is performed at a point other than the premises of the contractor, sub-contractor or contractor's freezer or warehouse.

(J.) Conformance of supplies, or parts thereof, will be determined in accordance with the applicable specification tolerances, acceptable quality levels and sampling procedures contained in the contract except as provided herein. At destination, the original inspection lots need not be reconstituted. For sampling purposes, supplies delivered under the contract may be grouped to form lots. The size of the sample will be determined by the sampling procedures specified in the contract for the quantity of supplies on which action is proposed. Whenever the contract does not provide criteria to determine the number of sample units, the number of containers selected for appropriate number of sample units, the number of containers selected for sampling will be the square root of the number of containers in the lot. Frozen product may be inspected for determination of compliance with all terms of the contract. If necessary, the product or samples, as appropriate, may be defrosted to the extent required to accomplish this inspection. At origin, the contractor will employ a procedure for identifying the inspection status of material before, during, and after processing.

(K.) The contractor's inspection system will be considered unreliable if a statistical comparison of contractor and Government inspection results indicates noncomparability. The noncomparable status will serve to notify the contractor of the significant disparity between the Government verification results and the contractor's results without either result indicating nonconformance. The Contracting Officer and/or Government QAR will notify the contractor when his inspection system is considered unreliable and change inspection system status to unreliable. The Contracting Officer and/or Government QAR will notify the contractor of any change in the inspection system status and of all reevaluations, whether or not a change in the inspection system is applicable.

(L.) The contractor's inspection system will be considered unreliable when the Government inspection results indicate nonconforming product and a significant difference is observed between the contractor and verification inspection results. The Contracting Officer and/or Government QAR will notify the contractor of any change in

the inspection system status and of all reevaluations, whether or not a change in the inspection system is applicable.

(M.) Standby inspection samples. The Government reserves the right to withdraw and hold, for inspection purposes, standby samples of components or finished products or both. Samples not used will be returned to the contractor.

(N.) The contractor may be liable for certain inspection costs for examination or tests (for end item or components, separately) performed by the Government.

(O.) When the contractor is liable for costs, as defined by this contract, the following will apply:

1. The Government QAR will notify the contractor in writing when the contractor's inspection system is determined to be unreliable. A copy of this letter containing the reason(s) for such determination will be forwarded through the appropriate CQAE(s) to the PCO(s). During the period of unreliability, the QAR will submit weekly reports of applicable inspection costs, including travel expenses, through the CQAE(s) to the PCO(s) for review and collection. Inspection costs will be computed at the rate of \$35.00 per hour. Hours will be computed based on total hours for all inspectors used to perform inspection (i.e., three inspectors at three hours each = nine hours total). Actual travel expenses will be determined in accordance with applicable travel regulations. Upon reestablishment of reliability the QAR will notify the contractor in writing and submit a copy of this letter, along with a final report of examination costs, through the CQAE(s) to the PCO(s). The contractor may appeal the assessment of examination costs in writing to the PCO stating full justification to refuse these costs. The PCO will provide a written decision on the appeal to the contractor. Assessment of examination costs will be based upon the dates of QAR notification to the contractor.

2. The contracting officer will notify the contractor in writing when the contractor's test system is determined to be unreliable. The Government QAR and the DSCP Quality Assurance Branch (DSCP-HRAC) will report applicable costs/charges related to Government sampling and testing to the contracting officer for collection.

3. Costs devoted to actual travel time will be computed at the current authorized hourly rate, computed to the nearest quarterly hour increment.

4. Laboratory testing costs will be assessed at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

5. Warehouse cost. Warehouse labor costs as reported by destination will be assessed at cost.

6. Miscellaneous expenses. Related expenses which can be reasonably computed will be assessed at actual cost.

7. Administrative costs. To the direct costs which are considered assessable, additional assessments will be added, based on the following charges to cover administrative costs which have been incurred by the Government in the review and assessment of actual costs.

A. An administrative charge of \$10.00 if actual charges do not exceed \$25.00 per reliability determination.

B. An administrative charge of \$10.00 if actual charges exceed \$25.00 but do not exceed \$50.00 per reliability determination.

C. An administrative charge of \$15.00 if actual charges exceed \$50.00 but do not exceed \$75.00 per reliability determination.

D. An administrative charge of \$20.00 if actual charges exceed \$75.00 per reliability determination.

NOTE: The above administrative charges do not include the cost for processing a contract modification.

8. The contractor shall be liable for Government costs (i.e., man- hours, travel, per diem, administration, etc.) incurred as a result of the failure of the contractor to notify the inspection service of change(s) in production schedule. Costs will be computed and reported by the QAR as detailed above.

E-4-K. Commingling of Lots

E-4-K-1. In order to facilitate lot traceability at the assembler's plant, the following is required (GFM and CFM):

- (1.) Lots shall be shipped on a first produced (and accepted) first out basis. No product shall be older than three months at time of shipments, except when a product at the manufacturer's plant is pending disposition instructions and/or action (request for waiver, deviation, rework, reinspection, etc) and/or as authorized by the Contracting Officer.
- (2.) Each shipping case shall normally contain only one manufacturer's lot. If a partial shipping case remains at the end of the production day, dunnage shall be used to fill the remainder of the case and the outside of the case shall be marked indicating the number of pouches/items within. See paragraph E-4-K-2 below for exception.
- (3.) Each unit load shall contain only one production lot, as a rule. However, when a partial unit load remains at the end of a production day, the contractor is permitted to complete the unit load with another lot's material. In this instance a unit load may consist of two lots to facilitate shipment.
- (4.) When two lots are incorporated on one pallet, the lots shall be distinctly separated by the use of paper or other material suitable for this purpose. When this occurs, the contractor shall affix a unit load placard on two adjacent sides of the unit load, identifying each lot number on the load and the quantities of pouches/items within each lot.
- (5.) Assemblers shall assemble one (1) component lot at a time, i. e., one (1) component lot shall be used at each assembly line until it becomes necessary to place another lot of the same component on the assembly line to maintain assembly flow.
- (6.) Lot numbers and corresponding lot quantities shall be included on the shipping/receiving documentation, e.g. DD Form 250. Thermostabilized items, water activity stabilized items and cheese spread shall also cite subcodes delivered.

E-4-K-2. Mixed Code Lots

In addition to the above, the following requirements shall apply to the shipment of "mixed code lots":

- (1.) A "mixed code lot" is defined as a lot consisting of small quantities of components representing different lots. These components usually accumulate as the result of sampling for the purposes of incubation, USDA standby samples or for similar reasons.
- (2.) Unit loads containing mixed code lots shall be identified by the use of unit load placards. The placards shall list all the lots and the quantities of pouches/items within each lot contained on the pallet. The placards shall be affixed on two adjacent sides of the unit load. Lot numbers and corresponding lot quantities shall also be included on the corresponding shipping/receiving documentation, e.g. DD Form 250.
- (3.) Mixed code lots shall be periodically shipped to the assembler(s). mixed code lots shall be shipped only when an entire unit load is completed of that single item or on a quarterly basis, whichever occurs first. Mixed code lot shipments may be less than a full unit load.

(4.) When the quantity of components from one production lot is less than that needed to fill a normal shipping container, product from more than one production lot may be used to fill a case. However, product from one production lot may not be used to partially fill more than one case. When a shipping case contains product from more than one production lot, a placard will be placed on the outside of the case that indicates the lot number and quantity for each lot.

E-4-K-3. Split Lots

Origin manufacturers have the choice of shipping an entire shift's production equaling one lot as follows:

- (1) The entire lot shall be shipped to only one assembler and received in accordance with the applicable Quality Systems Plan.
- (2) Whole lots may be split in two (2) portions for separate shipments.
 - (a) Split lot shipments may be shipped to more than one (1) assembler but not more than two (2) assemblers.
 - (b) No lot shall be split into more than two (2) portions and splitting individual subcodes is prohibited.
 - (c) Prior to splitting the lot for separate shipments, the lot shall be contractor and USDA inspected as one homogeneous lot, when origin USDA inspection is required.
 - (d) The origin manufacturer assumes full liability for both portions of a split lot shipment. Therefore, in the event of a defect determination, recall, product investigations, and/or other negative findings, both portions of the lot will be representative of the entire homogeneous lot and any action taken with regard to one portion will be taken with regard to the other portion, regardless of where the product was assembled.
 - (e) Associated lot shipping documentation will reflect split lot status, original lot quantities, and receipt inspection results.
 - (f) Both portions of all split lots will be stored in approved facilities only.

E-5. DSCP Clauses

52.246-9P01 Removal of Government Identification from Non-Accepted Supplies or Products Sold to Commercial Distributors (Jan 1992) DSCP

The contractor shall remove or obliterate from a rejected end item, or from product intended for commercial distribution, and its packing and packaging, any marking, symbol, or other representation that the end item or any part of it has been produced or manufactured for the United States Government. Removal or obliteration shall be accomplished prior to any donation, sale, or disposal in commercial channels. The contractor, in making disposition in commercial channels of rejected supplies, is responsible for compliance with requirements of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 USC 45 et seq.) and the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 USC 301 et seq.), as well as other federal or state laws and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

52.246-9P09 General Inspection Requirements (Jan 1998) DSCP

- (a) Inspection.
 - (1) The contractor shall employ the services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA) or Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) or U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to accomplish

origin inspection (examination and testing) and sampling as required herein and in the applicable commodity specifications. The contractor shall bear all expenses incident thereto, including costs of samples and all associated costs for preparation and mailing. Costs shall be assessed in accordance with the Government laboratory testing charges for individual test characteristics and number of tests required by the specification or contract. A list of fees may be obtained from the appropriate inspection activity. The contractor shall furnish the Government grader/inspector a copy of the complete contract and supporting contractual documents (i.e., individual solicitation, contract modifications, waivers and referenced specifications). Offerors may contact the appropriate Government office to discuss inspection procedures prior to submitting offers, however, nothing provided thereby shall be construed to alter the applicable specification in any manner or reduce the responsibility of the contractor to comply with such specifications.

(2) The contractor shall take action to correct or replace nonconforming supplies.

(3) The Government shall perform an inspection at destination for identity, condition and quantity. If there is evidence that the supplies do not conform to contract requirements, the inspector shall report the findings of his inspection to the appropriate DSCP office (Operational Rations Business Unit, Food Services Business Unit, Produce Business Unit, Product Services Office, etc.). The applicable DSCP office shall report the findings to the contracting officer or the ordering officer, who shall in turn notify the contractor.

(4) Supplies will be rejected when any evidence of insect activity (live or dead in any stage of development) or rodent activity/contamination is found in or on product, packaging, packing or unitization.

(5) Nonconforming supplies rejected at origin will not normally be accepted by the Government. However, the contractor may elect to petition the contracting officer in writing to grant a waiver of the contract requirements for which supplies have been found nonconforming, and to accept the supplies "as is" with appropriate price consideration.

(6) The contractor shall furnish all inspection gauges, instruments, scales, tools or other material required by the designated Government inspection activity to complete the necessary inspection. The Government inspector will ensure that the contractor has had such gauges, instruments, scales, tools and other material required to complete inspection properly calibrated and, if necessary, certified. When required by the contract/solicitation, the Government inspector will collect insect specimens from plant production and storage areas and submit the specimens to the nearest military entomological laboratory for identification. When the collection of insects is required, the contractor shall be responsible for supplying and installing specified insect monitoring devices required to accomplish this task.

(b) Standby Test Samples.

The Government reserves the right to withdraw and hold standby samples of components or finished products or both (quantity of which shall be not more than twice that required by the specification) for inspection purposes. Samples not used shall be returned to the contractor.

(c) USDA and USDC Certificates.

(1) Inspection by USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Poultry Division or Dairy Division: When DD Form 250, Material Inspection and Receiving Report (MIRR), is not used, the contractor shall obtain an official USDA Inspection Certificate, which shall:

(i) Contain the following statement in the Grade Section of the certificate:

(A) Supplies listed hereon conform to all quality requirements of the contract.

(B) Container condition meets all requirements of the contract.

(C) Visual examination indicates conformance to packaging, packing, unitization, labeling and marking requirements of the contract.

(ii) Indicate that supplies shipped are those inspected. This may be satisfied by means of one of the following:

(A) Each primary container must be embossed, stamped or stenciled with a code mark prior to inspection, which corresponds with the code marks listed on the USDA Grade Certificate.

(B) The USDA Grade Certificate bears a statement that all of the shipping containers comprising the inspection lot have been stamped with the official USDA stamp impression

(C) The USDA Certificate of Loading, if issued, bears a cross-reference to the applicable USDA inspection document.

(iii) Indicate that the contractor has furnished a Certificate of Conformance for Packaging, Packing, Labeling, Marking and Unitization Materials.

(iv) Indicate the random samples of packaging, packing, labeling, marking and unitization materials, where applicable, have been selected by the inspector for forwarding to DLA Analytical Laboratory, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111 in accordance with DSCP Clause 52.246-9P20.

(v) Indicate the applicable contract or order number.

(2) Inspection by USDA, AMS, Livestock, Meat Grain and Seed Division: For all shipments, whether DD Form 250 (MIRR) is required or not, the contractor shall obtain an USDA Agricultural Products Acceptance Certificate (Form LS 5-3), which shall contain the information specified in paragraph (c)(1). The contractor shall also include the applicable lot number(s).

(3) Inspection by USDA, GIPSA, Field Management Division: When DD Form 250 (MIRR) is not required, the contractor shall obtain an official USDA inspection or examination certificate, as appropriate. In addition to the entries required by the GIPSA, the certificate shall contain the following certification: "Supplies listed hereon conform to all quality and condition requirements of the contract."

(4) Inspection by U. S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service: For all shipments, whether DD Form 250 (MIRR) is required or not, the contractor shall obtain a NOAA Form 89-802 for items requiring in-process inspection or a NOAA Form 89-803 for items requiring only end item lot inspection. These certificates will as a minimum:

(i) Describe the product.

(ii) Certify compliance with all terms of the contract, except as noted thereon.

(iii) Identify the contract number.

(iv) Identify the production lot number(s).

(d) Distribution of Certificates.

Copying machine duplicates of the USDC Certificates and USDA Certificates other than USDA Form LS 5-3 are not acceptable. Copying machine duplicates of USDA Form LS 5-3 are acceptable only as provided in paragraph (2) and (3) below. Copying machine duplicates of the original signed DD Form 250 are acceptable. In addition to the prohibited use of copying machine duplicates, USDC Certificates must also be embossed with the official seal of the USDC. The contractor shall distribute certificates as follows:

(1) When DD Form 250 (MIRR) signed by the inspector is provided, a copy of the USDA/USDC Inspection Certificate need not be furnished to the designated paying officer (Exception: When the contract or specification provides for acceptance of the product with a price adjustment to the contractor's invoice, e.g., excess fat in ground beef, the original signed USDA/USDC Inspection Certificate must be attached to the top of the commercial invoice which is submitted to the designated paying office.)

(2) When DD Form 250 (MIRR) is not required, the original signed USDC Inspection Certificate or USDA Inspection Certificate other than USDA Form LS 5-3 must be attached to the top of the commercial invoice, which is submitted to the designated paying office. When the services of the USDA, AMS, Livestock, Meat, Grain and Seed Division are employed, the original signed USDA Form LS 5-3 or a copying machine duplicate of the original form LS 5-3 with an original signature must be attached to the top of the commercial invoice which is submitted to the designated paying office.

(3) As appropriate for any shipment, one blue or green signed copy of the original USDA Fruit and Vegetable Division Certificate; one green or yellow carbon copy of the original signed USDA; AMS Dairy Division or Poultry Division Certificate; one copy of the original signed USDA, GIPSA or USDC Certificate; one copy of the original signed USDA Form LS 5-3 or a copying machine duplicate of the original USDA Form LS 5-3 with an original signature shall accompany each shipment to each destination and be marked ATTN: Subsistence Inspector.

(4) In the event the contractor does not include appropriate certificate(s) with each shipment to each destination as required, the Government reserves the right to arrange for Government grading/inspection certification at destination at the contractor's expense.

(e) Lot Identification.

The contractor shall code or distinctively mark by embossing, stamping, printing or stenciling each shipping container for every lot of supplies offered for acceptance so as to identify the lot from any other lot produced by the contractor. Under both in-process (on line) and stationary lot inspection, the maximum lot size, unless otherwise specified in the contract, shall be defined by the assigned inspection agency.

(f) Particular Inspection Requirements.

(1) Primary Containers: Examination of primary containers for external condition and labeling shall be in accordance with the U.S. STANDARDS FOR CONDITION OF FOOD CONTAINERS, except that when requirements are contained in the specification, examination shall be performed in accordance with that specification. When additional requirements are specified in the specification, examination for these requirements shall be in accordance with the specification.

(2) Unit Loads: Examination of unit loads shall be in accordance with MIL-L-35078.

(3) All other: Examination shall be in accordance with the specification.

52.246-9P10 Alternative Inspection Requirements for Selected Items (JAN 1998) DSCP

Optional Contractor Testing of Contractor Furnished Materials.

(a) Option Statement.

To expedite shipment, the contractor has the option to perform or have performed by an independent laboratory, contractually required tests of end item or component material not specified by the U.S. Standards of Grade. The inspector for the government agency having jurisdiction upon ascertaining compliance may permit shipment, provided all other requirements of the contract are met. The designated government inspector will select random samples of each lot of end items or component material for verification testing until contractor's testing system is determined reliable. It is the intent of the government to rely on the contractor's test results and minimize government verification testing. Regardless of the Government agency having jurisdiction upon ascertaining compliance to contractual requirements at the supplier's production/assembly facility, a USDA laboratory will perform all Government verification testing. The contractor shall bear all expenses incident thereto, including costs of samples and all associated costs for preparation and mailing. Costs shall be assessed in accordance with the Government laboratory testing charges for individual test characteristics and number of

tests required by the specification or contract. A list of fees may be obtained from the appropriate USDA laboratory.

(b) Compliance of Product.

Acceptance of material as complying with required characteristics shall be based on the contractor's test results provided that government verification indicates contractor's test system is reliable as to each of the required characteristics. Where the contractor's test system is determined unreliable, product compliance will be based solely on government test results. In the event that the government detects irregularity in contractor's testing system, the designated government inspector may withhold approval until government test results indicate product conformance to contract requirements. If government laboratory test results show that product is nonconforming, although previously approved by the government inspector, the product shall be withheld from final assembly and subject to return and replacement by the component contractor.

(c) Reliability Conditions.

(1) The contractor's testing system will be considered reliable as long as its test results are comparable to the government test results. Unless the government agency having jurisdiction has inspected the item produced at the contractor's plant within the previous 120 days, the inspector will select random samples of the first three lots of end items and the first lot of component material for verification testing. If the results of these inspections indicate product conformance, the test system will be considered reliable. As long as the contractor's testing system is reliable, the government inspector will sample product for verification testing on a skip-lot basis. Unless otherwise required by DSCP or the inspection activity, skip-lot verification shall be done by random selecting not less than one lot in six consecutive lots presented for inspection of a specific item. The sampling procedure under skip-lot places the succeeding lots not chosen for inspection back into the universe available for subsequent inspection. For instance, starting with a group of six lots (i.e., 1-6), randomly select one of them for inspection. If lot 4 were selected, the next lot would be selected from lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10. If lot 8 were chosen at random, the next selection would be from lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, and so on.

(2) Contractor's testing system will be considered unreliable when the government verification results indicate product nonconformance to contract requirements and a significant disparity exists between government laboratory results and contractor's testing results. When a contractor's test system is determined to be unreliable, compliance testing will revert to the government. Items must be government inspected prior to shipment.

(3) Contractor's testing system will be considered doubtful when a significant disparity exists between government laboratory results and contractor's test results and the former indicates significantly poorer quality than the latter; however, the government laboratory test results do not indicate product nonconformance to a statistically significant degree. When the contractor's testing system is considered doubtful, verification testing will be performed on each lot produced. However, the government will continue to permit the contractor to ship based on its own test results.

(4) Contractor testing system reliability will be determined by applying recognized statistical tests to the contractor's and government's test results. These determinations shall be accomplished by the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Directorate of Subsistence, Operational Rations CBU, DSCP- FTRO (Product Quality Office – Test and Evaluation Program Manager), Building 6, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5092.

(5) The contracting officer will notify the contractor of any change in reliability status. Notification will include details of the statistical determinations and test results used in reliability studies. Telephonic notification and copies of these determinations will be provided to the government by DSCP-FTRO.

(d) Procedures.

When the contractor elects to perform testing, the following shall apply:

(1) Reporting of Contractor's Results. Test reports for each lot of end item and components shall be submitted in the format contained in this clause by the contractor in an original and one copy to the designated government inspector. Government verification testing shall be withheld, at a minimum, until the contractor's completed inspection/test results are presented to the Government. The GQAR shall review the certification and test report submitted by the supplier to ensure accuracy and contractor's conformance with contractual requirements prior to initiating any Government verification testing. The GQAR shall simultaneously fax or e-mail a completed copy of the contractor's test results for the lot selected for Government verification testing along with the Government laboratory test results to DSCP-FTRO.

(2) Verification Actions. After the Government (GQAR) has reviewed the certification and test report submitted by the supplier to ensure accuracy and contractor's conformance, the government shall perform verification testing for food items and component material required by the contract to assure that the contractor's testing results (submitted by the contractor) are reliable. Verification samples will be accompanied with a DD Form 1222, Request for and Results of Tests. Copies of the results of testing performed by the government shall be given to the government inspector by the government laboratory that performed the tests. The results of nonconforming lots and lots selected for Government verification testing shall be electronically mailed to Chad.Weddell@dls.mil or Gary.Walker@dla.mil, fax (215 737-0379) or by telephone (215-737-2934/3876). The government reserves the right to increase the rate or amount of verification testing to and including full lot-by-lot testing, in the event the contractor does not furnish reliable test results or certificates, or to obtain additional data when significant disparities exist between the contractor's results and the results of the government laboratory. When any element of the contractor testing system is determined unreliable, the government may consider the testing system as a whole unreliable, and return to full lot-by-lot verification for each and every test. Testing by the government will continue until such time as the contractor's reliability is again established.

(3) Standby Test Samples. The government reserves the right to withdraw and hold standby test samples of component or finished product or both (quantity of which shall be the next larger available sample size required for unit testing and the same sample size required for composite testing) for inspection purposes. Unused samples will be returned to the contractor.

(e) Charges Applicable to Unreliable Test Status.

The prime contractor will be charged the costs of lot-by-lot inspection during the period that its test system status is considered unreliable. These charges will be processed by and approved by the contracting officer.

(f) Format for Contractor/Subcontractor Test Report.

Name & Address of Contractor:

Name & Address of Subcontractor: (if applicable)

Received for Testing: (date)

Contract Number:

Sample Tested: (end item or component, indicate by name)

Quantity Tested:

Applicable Specification:

Identification of Lot: (end item or component lot number, as applicable)

Quantity in Lot: (units)

Testing Completed: (date)

Test Report

(Report test results for each sample unit tested and the sample average, if required by the specification, and identify results obtained from composite samples.)

(Typed name and title of laboratory official and signature)

The following certification shall be affixed to the test report when testing was performed on component item by supplier's laboratory or by subcontractor's laboratory.

Certification

I certify that the above test results were furnished to this firm to cover the testing of samples which are representative of the lot, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, have been found to comply with the analytical requirements of the specification, contract no. _____

Signature: _____

(typed name and title of contractor's representative who is authorized to sign the certificate, and the date)

The following certification shall be affixed to the test report when testing was performed on component and/or end item by contractor's laboratory or an independent laboratory.

Certification

I certify that the item presented for acceptance under terms of above referenced contract has been tested, as required by the contract, through the testing of samples that were representative of the lot, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, were found to comply with the analytical requirements of the specification and the contract.

Signature: _____

(typed name and title of contractor's representative who is authorized to sign the certificate, and the date)

Distribution:

(Original and 1 copy to government inspector of which one copy will be forwarded by the GQAR promptly to DSCP-FTRO along the results of the Government verification test results. Copy with each shipment, when DD Form 250 (MIRR) reports are not provided.)

52.246-9P15 Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies (Jan 1998) DSCP

(a) When origin inspection is performed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Commerce and supplies are found to be nonconforming at origin, the contractor may request USDA/USDC reinspection/formal review in accordance with the regulations of the respective agency. In such instances, the next larger available sample size will be used. The decision of the USDA/USDC representative as to conformance or nonconformance shall be final. It will be within the discretion of USDA/USDC whether to assess reinspection costs against the contractor.

(b) When origin inspection is performed by the USDA or USDC and supplies are found to be nonconforming at destination, the contractor may petition the contracting officer to obtain permission for a single reinspection, provided such petition provides valid technical reasons to believe the destination inspection findings were erroneous. The reinspection shall be performed in accordance with the original destination inspection criteria unless otherwise specified by the contracting officer.

(1) Reinspection of nonconforming supplies for grading factors, suspicion of fraud or substitution shall be conducted by the applicable origin inspection agency (USDA for meats and poultry, or USDC for waterfoods). All costs associated with USDA/USDC reinspection shall be borne by the contractor unless the reinspection results establish compliance with contractual requirements, in which case costs shall be borne by the government.

(2) Reinspection for all other criteria shall be accomplished by the Military Medical/Veterinary Services, as coordinated by the contracting officer with the applicable Military Medical/Veterinary Service Headquarters. The Military Medical/Veterinary Service Headquarters will designate the activity assigned to perform the reinspection and advise the contracting officer and the designated activity of the reinspection schedule. Reinspection shall be performed by personnel other than those involved in the original destination inspection. Reinspection costs shall be borne by the contractor when reinspection results substantiate the nonconformance. The government shall bear the costs of reinspection if the products are in compliance with contractual requirements.

(c) When inspection by the USDA or USDC is not a contract requirement and supplies are found nonconforming at destination, the contractor may petition the contracting officer one time only to obtain permission for a single reinspection provided such petition provides valid technical reasons to believe the original inspection findings were erroneous. If the contracting officer authorizes a reinspection, the reinspection results shall be final if they differ from the original inspection to such a statistically significant degree that error in the original results is probable. Otherwise, the original inspection results shall prevail. The reinspection/formal review shall be performed in accordance with the original inspection criteria, unless otherwise specified. All costs associated with the reinspection shall be borne by the contractor unless the reinspection results establish compliance with the contract requirements in which case costs shall be assumed by the government. Reinspection shall not be authorized when original inspection findings show that the supplies are unwholesome or contain a deleterious substance.

(d) The contractor may elect to petition the contracting officer to grant a waiver of those contract requirements for which supplies have been found nonconforming and accept the supplies "as is" with

appropriate price consideration. However, if the contractor intends to exercise any option under (a), (b) or (c) above, the contractor must do so prior to requesting a waiver. The denial of a waiver by the contracting officer will result in final rejection of the nonconforming supplies without recourse to reinspection.

NOTE: If there is any discrepancy between this clause, Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies (DSCP Clause 52.246-9P15) (Aug 1997)), and the Section E clauses entitled "General Inspection (Examination/Testing) Requirements", "Request for Rework, Request for Waiver, Request for Deviation, or Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies", and "Rework of Nonconforming Product Pre or Post Acceptance", the requirements of "General Inspection (Examination/Testing) Requirements", "Request for Rework, Request for Waiver, Request for Deviation, or Reinspection of Nonconforming Supplies", and "Rework of Nonconforming Product Pre or Post Acceptance" shall take precedence. After any lot's failure or rework, if the lot is reinspected, it will be both Contractor and Government inspected at the next higher sample size.

52.246-9P16 Contractor and Government Samples at Origin (Jan 1992) DSCP

When required, the contractor will select samples of end items or components or both for contractor examination or testing as required by the item specification or other contract provisions. In addition, the Government may select samples of end items or components or both at origin for the purpose of conducting required inspection. The Government may use, consume, destroy or retain said samples at its option. Notwithstanding any other provision of the contract, the contractor shall bear the cost of contractor and Government samples selected at origin, whether the supplies are accepted or rejected. Furthermore, unless otherwise specified, any sample unit which is altered as a result of the performance of any required examination or test so as to no longer meet the required characteristic of the component or end item, shall not be included as part of the supplies delivered under the contract. Examples of such alteration include, but are not limited to, cutting an item to remove a slice or observe internal surface characteristics, procedures requiring re-canning/re-cooking of the product, thawing and refreezing.

52.246-9P20 Certificate of Conformance (JAN 1998) DSCP

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the contract, the contractor shall furnish a Certificate of Conformance for packaging, packing, labeling, marking and unitization materials and their performance in use in lieu of Government sampling and testing. Performance in use applies to joint strength of strapping and tension of unit load strapping. The unitization materials covered by the Certificate of Conformance shall not include pallets. Examination and testing of pallets shall be performed in accordance with specification requirements unless otherwise stipulated in the contract.

(b) When specified, the contractor may also furnish a Certificate of Conformance for certain components/ingredients or end item characteristics. The contractor may still furnish a Certificate covering any of the foregoing even though a subcontractor provided the materials. In such event, the contractor is responsible for assuring that the materials meet all contract requirements. For this reason, the contractor should request a Certificate of Conformance from the subcontractor.

(c) The Certificate of Conformance should be worded substantially as follows:

(1) I certify that all (indicate type of material) called for by the contract conform to applicable contract requirements in every particular. (For meats only, the contractor must also state that "No distressed, reconditioned meat has been used.")

(2) Such materials consist of the following: (Specify quantity, manufacturer and nomenclature for each item.)

Signature and Title of Certifying Official

Distribution: One copy to origin inspector, when applicable. One copy with shipment when origin USDA/USDC inspection is not required. One copy with invoice for payment when DD Form 250 is not used.

(d) It is the intent of the Government to be able to rely on the Certificate of Conformance. To assure that the certificate is reliable, the Government reserves the right to perform verification testing of each component for which specifications are established in the contract. Random samples shall be personally selected by the cognizant Government inspector. Random samples of packaging, labeling, packing and marking materials shall be submitted to the DLA Analytical Laboratory with a copy of the DD Form 1222 furnished to DSCP-HSQ. Food component materials shall be sent to the laboratory servicing the inspector's organization. All costs incident to the sampling and submittal of materials shall be borne by the contractor. The reliability of the contractor's Certificate of Conformance will be determined on the basis of Government verification results.

(1) When it is determined by DSCP-HSQ that the DLA Analytical Laboratory test samples meet the contract requirements, the Certificate of Conformance for these materials is considered reliable.

(2) When DSCP finds the materials do not meet the contract requirements based on recognized statistical methods, the Certificate of Conformance is considered unreliable. The contractor shall be so advised and the particular deficiencies that render such certificate unreliable shall be identified. The unreliability status may be continued from contract to contract regardless of the particular contract on which the verification tests, or submission by contractor of nonconforming material, has occurred. The contractor is responsible for all costs incurred by the Government in performing tests of future samples submitted for testing after such time as the Government has informed the contractor of the unreliability status and until reliability is again established to the satisfaction of the contracting officer. Testing and administrative costs shall be assessed at the prevailing rate.

52.211-9P36 FDA Compliance (Jan 1992) DSCP

If any Supplies acquired hereunder are recalled under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, and regulations thereunder, the contractor shall, at the Government's option, either reimburse the Government or repair/replace the recalled supplies. Additionally, the contractor shall notify the contracting officer immediately when a firm decides to voluntarily recall or withdraw any product from the marketplace. Upon notification by the contracting officer that supplies acquired hereunder have been recalled, the contractor shall either (a) accept Certificates of Destruction from the Government after the supplies have been properly disposed of, (b) request return of the supplies, or (c) if supplies may be repaired on site without transporting them from their location, furnish all materials necessary to effect repairs. Replacement or reimbursement will be accomplished by the contractor immediately on receipt of Certificates of Destruction or returned supplies. The costs of replacement or repair of supplies, and transportation and handling costs for movement of returned, replaced or repaired supplies within the continental United States shall be paid by the contractor. The provisions of this clause are applicable only when the value of the recalled supplies in the possession of the Government amounts to \$100 or more. The rights and remedies of the Government provided in this clause are in addition to, and do not limit, any rights afforded to the Government by any other clause in the contract.

52.246-9P31 Sanitary Conditions (Jan 1998) DSCP

(a) Food establishments.

() (1) establishments furnishing food items under DSCP contracts are subject to approval by the Military Medical Service or another agency acceptable to the Military Medical Service. The government does not intend to make any award for, no accept, any subsistence products manufactured or processed in a plant which is operating under such unsanitary conditions as may lead to product contamination or constitute a health hazard, or which has not been listed in an appropriate government directory as a sanitarily approved establishment when required. Accordingly, the supplier agrees that, except as indicated in paragraphs (2) and (3) below, products furnished as a result of this contract will originate only in establishments listed in the "Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement", published by the U.S. Army Veterinary Command. Suppliers also agree to inform the contracting officer immediately upon notification that a manufacturing plant is no longer sanitarily approved and/or delisted from another agency's listing, as indicated in paragraph (2) below. The contracting officer will also be notified when sanitary approval is regained and listing is reinstated.

() (1) establishments furnishing food items under DSCP contracts are subject to approval by the Military Medical Service or another agency acceptable to the Military Medical Service. The government does not intend to make any award for, no accept, any subsistence products manufactured or processed in a plant which is operating under such unsanitary conditions as may lead to product contamination or constitute a health hazard, or which has not been listed in an appropriate government directory as a sanitarily approved establishment when required. Accordingly, the supplier agrees that, except as indicated in paragraphs (2) and (3) below, products furnished as a result of this contract will originate only in establishments listed in the "Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement", published by the U.S. Army Veterinary Command. Bread and bakery products from an establishment inspected by the American Institute of Baking need not be listed in the "Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement" if the contractor certifies in writing that the establishment is currently in good standing. If the establishment should lose their good standing with the American Institute of Baking, the contractor must notify the contracting officer and provide a new source of supply.

(2) Establishments furnishing the products listed below and appearing in the publications indicated need not be listed in the "Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments".

(i) Meat and meat products and poultry and poultry products from establishments which are currently listed in the "Meat and Poultry Inspection Directory", published by the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program AMS, USDA. The item, to be acceptable, shall, on delivery, bear on the product, its wrappers or shipping container, as applicable, the official inspection legend or label of the agency.

(ii) Meat and meat products for direct delivery to military installations within the same state may be supplied when the items are processed under state inspection in establishments certified by the USDA as being equal to federal meat inspection requirements.

(iii) Poultry, poultry products, and shell eggs from establishments listed in the "List of Plants Operating under USDA Poultry and Egg Grading Programs" published by Poultry Programs, Grading Branch, AMS, USDA. Egg products (liquid, dehydrated) from establishments listed in the "Meat and Poultry Directory" published by the Food Safety Inspection Service. All products, to be acceptable, shall, on delivery, bear on the product, its wrappers or shipping container, as applicable, the official inspection legend or label of the agency.

(iv) Fish and fishery products from establishments listed in the "Approved List--Sanitary Inspected Fish Establishments", published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service.

(v) Milk and milk products from plants having a pasteurization plant compliance rating of 90 or more, as certified by a state milk sanitation rating officer and listed in "Sanitation Compliance and Enforcement Ratings of Interstate Milk Shippers", published by the U.S. Public Health Service. These may serve as sources of pasteurized milk and milk products as defined in paragraph N, Section I, Part II of the "Grade 'A' Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, 1978 Recommendations of the U.S. Public Health Service", Public Health Service Publication No. 229.

(vi) "Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service", published by Dairy Division, Grading Branch, AMS, USDA.

(vii) Oysters, clams and mussels from plants listed in the “Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers Lists”, published by the U.S. Public Health Service.

(3) Establishments furnishing the following products are exempt from appearing in the “Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement”, or other publication, but will remain subject to inspection and approval by the Military Medical Service or by another inspection agency acceptable to the Military Medical Service:

(i) Fruits, vegetables and juices thereof.

(ii) Special dietary foods and food specialty preparations (except animal products, unless such animal products are produced in establishments covered by paragraphs (2)(i), (2)(iii), or (2)(iv) above).

(iii) Food oils and fats (except animal products, unless such animal products are produced in establishments covered by paragraph (2)(i), (2)(iii), or (2)(iv) above).

(iv) foreign establishments whose prepackaged finished items are imported by distributors or brokers into the United States as brand name items and then sold to armed forces procurement agencies for commissary store resale.

(4) Subsistence items other than those exempt from listing in the U.S. Army Veterinary Command “Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement”, bearing labels reading “Distributed By”, etc., are not acceptable unless the source of manufacturing/processing is indicated on the label or on accompanying shipment documentation.

(5) When the Military Medical Service or other inspection agency acceptable to the Military Medical Service determines that the sanitary conditions of the establishment or its products have or may lead to product contamination, the contracting officer will suspend the work until such conditions are remedied to the satisfaction of the appropriate inspection agency. Suspension of the work shall not extend the life of the contract, nor shall it be considered sufficient cause for the contractor to request an extension of any delivery date. In the event the contractor fails to correct such objectionable conditions within the time specified by the contracting officer, the government shall have the right to terminate the contract in accordance with the “Default” clause of the contract.

(b) Delivery Conveyances.

The supplies delivered under this contract shall be transported in delivery conveyances maintained to prevent contamination of the supplies, and if applicable, equipped to maintain any prescribed temperature. (Semiperishable supplies shall be delivered in a non-refrigerated conveyance.) The delivery conveyances shall be subject to inspection by the government at all reasonable times and places. When the sanitary conditions of the delivery conveyance have led, or may lead to product contamination, or they constitute a health hazard, or the delivery conveyance is not equipped to maintain prescribed temperatures, supplies tendered for acceptance may be rejected without further inspection.

NOTE: Second Option, paragraph (a), (1), of DSCP Clause 52.246-9P31, is not applicable to this contract, i.e. () (1) establishments furnishing food items under DSCP contracts are subject to approval by the Military Medical Service or another agency acceptable to the Military Medical Service. The government does not intend to make any award for, no accept, any subsistence products manufactured or processed in a plant which is operating under such unsanitary conditions as may lead to product contamination or constitute a health hazard, or which has not been listed in an appropriate government directory as a sanitarily approved establishment when required. Accordingly, the supplier agrees that, except as indicated in paragraphs (2) and (3) below, products furnished as a result of this contract will originate only in establishments listed in the “Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement”, published by the U.S. Army Veterinary Command. Bread and bakery products from an establishment inspected by the American Institute of Baking need not be listed in the “Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement” if the contractor certifies in writing that the establishment is currently in good standing. If the establishment should lose their good standing with the American Institute of Baking, the contractor must notify the contracting officer and provide a new source of supply.

52.246-9P32 Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act - Wholesome Meat Act (Jan 1992) DSCP

(A) The contractor warrants that the supplies delivered under this contract comply with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Wholesome meat Act, and regulations thereunder. This warranty will apply regardless of whether or not the supplies have been:

- (1) Shipped in interstate commerce,
- (2) Seized under either Act or inspected by the Food and Drug Administration or Department of Agriculture.
- (3) Inspected, accepted, paid for or consumed, or any or all of these, provided however, that the supplies are not required to comply with requirements of said Acts and regulations thereunder when a specific paragraph of the applicable specification directs otherwise and the supplies are being contracted for military rations, not for resale.

(B) The Government shall have six months from the date of delivery of the supplies to the Government within which to discover a breach of this warranty. Notwithstanding the time at which such breach is discovered, the right is reserved to give notice of breach of this warranty at any time within such applicable period or within 30 days after expiration of such period, and any such notice shall preserve the rights and remedies provided herein.

(C) Within a reasonable time after notice to the contractor of breach of this warranty, the Government may, at its election:

- (1) Retain all or part of the supplies and recover from the contractor, or deduct from the contract price, a sum determined to be equitable under the circumstances;
- (2) Return or offer to return all or part of the supplies to the contractor in place and recover the contract price and transportation, handling, inspection and storage costs expended therefore; provided, that if the supplies are seized under either Act, such seizure, at Government option, shall be deemed a return of supplies within the meaning of this clause and thereby allow the Government to pursue the remedy provided herein. Failure to agree to any deduction or recovery provided herein shall be a dispute of a question of fact within the meaning of the clause of this contract entitled "Disputes".

(D) The rights and remedies provided by this clause shall not be exclusive and are in addition to other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract, nor shall pursuit of a remedy herein or by law either jointly, severally or alternatively, whether simultaneously or at different times, constitute an election of remedies.

52.209-9P07 Pre-Award Plant Survey (Jan 1992) DSCP

To determine the responsibility of the prospective contractors, the Government reserves the right to conduct physical surveys of the plants which are to be used in the performance of a contract. In the event the Government is prevented from making such survey by the offeror or its proposed subcontractor, the offer may be rejected. As a part of the pre-award survey, the offeror may be required to obtain from its intended sources of supply, letters confirming availability of components, materials, machinery and tooling.

52.246-9003 Measuring And Test Equipment (Jun 1998) – DLAD

Notwithstanding any other clause to the contrary, and/or in addition thereto, the contractor shall ensure that the gauges and other measuring and testing equipment, used in determining whether the supplies presented to the Government for acceptance under this contract fully conform to specified technical requirements, are calibrated in accordance with ISO 10012-1 or ANSI/NCLZ Z540-1.

52.246-9004 Product Verification Testing (Jun 1998) - DLAD

- (a) References: The applicable documents are the issues of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clause 52.246-2, "Inspection of Supplies-Fixed Price," and ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-2003, Sampling Plan and Tables for Inspection by Attributes, which are in effect on the date of solicitation for awards resulting from Invitation for Bids and the date of award for all other contractual actions. These documents form the basis for the Government's right to perform product verification testing (PVT) of this product. FAR 52.246-2 is hereby incorporated by reference into the contract if not otherwise called out in the purchase document.
- (b) The contractor is responsible for ensuring that supplies are manufactured, produced, and subjected to all tests required by applicable material specifications/drawings specified in the purchase description of this contract. Notwithstanding any other clause to the contrary, and/or in addition thereto, the Government reserves the right to conduct PVT to ascertain if any or all requirements of the purchase identification description contained elsewhere herein are met prior to final acceptance.
- (c) On any given contract, the Government may require PVT through a Government designated testing laboratory on the contract or production lot at Government expense. Testing will consist of chemical and/or mechanical/dimensional conformance tests as the Government deems necessary. When material under the contract is designated by the Contracting Officer/Administrative Officer for each test, the Government inspector will select a random sample from the contract or production lot, and send the samples to a designated laboratory for testing. Where origin inspection is specified, the Contractor agrees to make available, at the Government's request, at the manufacturing facility, subcontracting facility, and/or final point of inspection, the quantity selected by the Contract Administrative Office Quality Assurance Representative to verify that the entire lot tendered meets the requirements of the contract. the Government shall be permitted to select such samples at random from the production lot tendered for acceptance.
- (d) [This subparagraph pertains only to contracts and bilateral purchase orders.]
- (1) The PVT samples will be sent, by the Government at Government expense, to a Government-designated testing laboratory for product verification. The Government will notify the contractor of the results of the testing within 15 working days of receipt of the samples by the Government. If the Government fails to act within the period set forth herein for notification, the contracting officer shall, upon timely written request, equitably adjust, under the Changes clause of this contract, the delivery or performance dates and/or the contract price and any other contractual terms affected by the delay. The Government is not required to accept/reject the supplies tendered until after the receipt of the PVT test results.
- (2) The Government shall have the option to require the Contractor to screen the entire lot tendered for any defects noted by the PVT testing. Any defects found shall be corrected before retendering the lot for acceptance by the Government. Further, the Government may subject this lot to additional PVT testing. If the Government disapproves the lot tendered for acceptance because of a failure to pass the PVT, the contractor shall be deemed to have failed to make delivery within the meaning of the Default clause of this contract. In such case, the Government reserves all rights to remedies to which it is otherwise entitled by law, regulation, or this contract.
- (e) [This subparagraph pertains only to unilateral purchase orders.]
- (1) The PVT samples will be sent by the Government and at Government expense, to a Government-designated testing laboratory for product verification. The Government will notify the contractor of the results of the testing within 15 days after receipt of the samples. If the Government fails to act within the specified time period set forth herein for notification, the contracting officer shall, upon timely written request from the contractor, incorporate FAR clause 52.243-1, "Changes-Fixed Price," into the purchase order, and equitably

adjust the delivery or performance date and/or the price and any other terms affected by the delay. The Government is not required to accept/reject the supplies tendered until after the PVT test results.

(2) The Government shall have the option to require the Contractor to screen the entire lot tendered for any defects noted by the PVT. Any defects so found shall be corrected before retendering the lot for acceptance by the Government. Further, the Government may subject this lot to additional PVT. If the Government disapproves the lot tendered for acceptance because of a failure to pass the PVT, the Government has the right to reject the entire offer, thereby releasing the parties from further obligations under the purchase order.

NOTICE: The following Federal Acquisition Regulation clauses are incorporated by reference:

- 52.246-2 INSPECTION OF SUPPLIES - FIXED PRICE (AUG 1996)
- 52.246-11 HIGHER-LEVEL CONTRACT QUALITY REQUIREMENT (FEB 1999)
(GOVERNMENT SPECIFICATION)

The following should be inserted in paragraph (b) of this clause: "ANSI/ISO/ASQC Q9001, or equivalent industry standard, unless otherwise specified, at the election of the contractor (the contractor must indicate preference for one of these standards)"

For Meal-Ready-to-Eat Final Assemblies the following clauses are set forth in full text:

NOTE: Offeror may be required or may wish to make one or more entries in the following clause.

52.246-9P12 INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT (JAN 1992) DSCP

(a) Saving and reserving to the government all rights under the inspection provision, the following is applicable to this acquisition:

Inspection at Contractor's Plant, () Destination, AND

Acceptance at Contractor's Plant, () Destination, upon execution of DD Form 250 by the authorized government representative.

(b) Resultant awards or contract will contain the name and address of the office responsible for performance of inspection.

(c) Offeror shall indicate below the location where supplies will be inspected:

Plant: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____