

Item: **Meatballs in Marinara Sauce** (MMS)

Document: **PCR-M-015, Meatballs in Marinara Sauce, Packaged in a Flexible Pouch, Shelf Stable**

Approximate Caloric Value Per Serving: **250** Component Classification: **Primary**

Estimated Shelf Life: **36 months at 80°F**

### **Item Characteristics**

- Appearance: Small, rounded, symmetrical meatballs with a cooked ground beef appearance and varied size in a smooth, opaque red to reddish brown sauce containing small pieces of tomato, onion, and flecks of herbs.
- Odor: Cooked tomato, onion, and ground beef with Italian herbs and spices.
- Flavor: Cooked tomato, onion, and ground beef with Italian herbs and spices.
- Texture: Moist and tender meatballs in a moderately thick sauce.

### **Possible Deteriorative Changes**

- Appearance: Darkened sauce and darkened browned meatballs. The surface of the meatballs may be especially browned. Some syneresis and/or thickened sauce. Moderate oiling-off.
- Odor: Burnt sauce; some loss of characteristic herb and spice aroma.
- Flavor: Rancid meat. Sour, bitter, burnt sauce; some loss of characteristic herb and spice flavor.
- Texture: Some syneresis or thickening of sauce. Meatballs extremely dry, hard, mushy or rubbery. Moderate oiling-off.

### **Unique Examination/Test Procedures**

There may be some variation in the amount and size of tomato pieces depending on the manufacturer.