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**\* MONOGRAPH NO.: M4M**  
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**ITEM:** Crackers, Soda, Salted

**NSN:** 8920-00-149-0795

**ITEM SPECIFICATION:** MIL-C-44112

**APPROXIMATE CALORIC VALUE:** 196-203 Kilocalories (PRIMARY)

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ITEM:**

**APPEARANCE:** Square, evenly baked to light golden color except for edges that may be light to dark brown. Surface contains numerous perforations (called docker holes). Surface may or may not have salt evident (see Special Notes).

**ODOR:** Very slightly toasted cracker. Yeast-like odor is often noticeable.

**FLAVOR:** Ranges from a salty cracker to bland cracker. Yeast-like flavor is often noticeable.

**TEXTURE:** Dry, flaky to crumbly.

**DEFECTS LIKELY TO OCCUR:**

**APPEARANCE:** Darkened (but not due to over baking at origin).

**ODOR:** Stale, cardboard, rancid.

**FLAVOR:** Stale, musty, bitter, rancid.

**TEXTURE:** Excessively dry and crumbly.

**UNIQUE EXAMINATION/TEST PROCEDURES:** When package is first opened the product should be smelled for off-odors. Odors that dissipate rapidly (e.g., musty, yeasty, slightly rancid) should be noted but not scored as a surveillance defect provided no other condition factor such as off-taste is also noted.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Crackers from 1984 rations will probably be in square solid sheets and consistently exhibit a darker than normal color; however, the overall organoleptic qualities should not be affected by this factor. In 1986 and later, topping salt was not used, and the salt was mixed into the cracker dough to preclude it from puncturing the pouch.

In earlier years, topping salt of various sizes and shapes was used and it was suspected of causing punctures or wear holes in the package. Serviceability of the cracker is considered significantly affected when more than 25% of the product's volume is crushed or reduced to crumbs. This item is vacuum packaged but does not contain an inner liner. The flavor, odor, and texture is similar to, but not exactly like a saltine soda cracker. The sealed bag shall continue to exhibit tight adherence to the large flat surfaces of the contents when a pulling force is applied at the center of each side seal. This force shall be applied by holding each side seal between thumb and forefinger of each hand, simultaneously exerting a slight pull with both hands.