

For DSCP Website Posting

RDNS-CFF

3 September 2009

TO: DSCP-FTSA

SUBJECT: ES09-166; Retort Pouch Labeling, Code Clarification

1. In October 2008 (ES08-104), Natick introduced time stamping requirements for retort pouches. Since its introduction and use, it has been found that one contractor prefers use of a retort lot code on the carton. Easy traceability is retained; this variation is acceptable.

2. Natick recommends that DSCP modify current, pending and future contracts to incorporate the following changes for retorted components:

Section D-2, A(2), before “Time stamp”, insert on new line:
“Retort identification number and Retort cook number (Optional)”

Footnote 1/, delete: “Sublotting (when used) shall be represented by an alpha character immediately following the four digit Julian code.” and “and the alpha character (when used).”.

Section D-2,B(1), Footnote 2/ or 3/, add after “time stamp as pouch)” insert
“Alternatively, the optional Retort identification number and Retort cook number shall be used.”

3. ACR-M-029 and future ACRs for MEAL, READY-TO-EAT (MRE™), ASSEMBLY REQUIREMENTS may be consulted to verify the items that will now use this labeling.