



APPROVED

FEDERAL PURCHASE PROGRAM SPECIFICATION (FPPS) FOR ONCE-FROZEN ALASKA POLLOCK BLOCKS

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Livestock, Poultry and Seed (LPS) Program
Food Safety and Commodity Specification (FSCS) Division
Room 2628 S-Bldg, Phone: (202) 692-0342

Supersedes: FPPS APB dated April 2015 – changes from
previous requirements in [blue](#)

Effective: [April 2016](#)

100 ITEM DESCRIPTION

110 Once-Frozen Alaska Pollock Blocks

120 U.S. Grade A

130 Fish blocks shall weigh approximately 16-½ pounds and shall be packed three (3) blocks to a master carton with a net weight of 49-½ pounds.

200 CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS

210 Product shall be produced under the Food and Drug Administration regulations and all applicable federal Acts and regulatory references cited therein that are in effect on the date of production.

300 MATERIALS

310 FISH FLESH

311 Domestic Origin of Fish Flesh – The Alaska Pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) shall be derived from fillets that are caught and processed in U.S. waters on a U.S. flagged vessel or caught in U.S. waters and processed in a facility based in the U.S. or U.S. Territory.

312 U.S. Grade A - United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Fish Fillet Blocks. Standards for Grades shall be implemented in accordance with the guidance set forth in part II of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Handbook 25, "Inspector's Instructions for Grading Frozen Fish Blocks."

313 The U.S. Standards for Grades shall apply to once-frozen fish blocks that are rectangular shaped masses made from Alaska Pollock flesh.

- 314 The blocks shall be made from whole fillets that are skinless and boneless (pin bone out).
- 315 The blocks shall not contain minced or comminuted fish flesh. The blocks shall not be made by restructuring (reworking) pieces of fish blocks into the shape of a fish block.
- 316 The blocks shall not contain sodium phosphates.
- 317 The blocks shall never be allowed to thaw and shall have been stored at temperatures of 0°F or less for no more than 12 months.
- 318 The Pollock blocks shall be practically free of voids and ice pockets.

320 METAL DETECTION

- 321 All product shall be free of metal contaminates. Detection of stainless steel, ferrous, and non-ferrous (e.g., lead, copper, and aluminum) metals is required. The equipment, location, detection procedure, sensitivity levels, frequency of equipment validation, and corrective action procedures shall be identified and described.

400 PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

410 PACKAGING AND PACKING

- 411 Packaging – Fresh (never previously frozen) Alaska Pollock fillets shall be layered into a block mold and deep frozen to produce fish blocks that are used as the raw material for further processing into high quality breaded and battered fish products. The once-frozen Alaska Pollock Blocks shall be wrapped or sealed to protect blocks from freezer deterioration, physical damage, and contamination.
- 412 Fish blocks shall weigh approximately 16-½ pounds and shall be packed three to a master carton with a net weight of 49-½ pounds.
- 413 The once-frozen blocks shall be protected by a paperboard block liner and then packed in a cardboard master case, which reduces the likelihood of freezer burn or rancidity. The packaging should be uniform and completely cover the product.
- 414 Shipping container labeling shall declare a net weight, meaning actual product weight.
- 415 Style and Size of Container – Only one size and style of bags and cases may be offered in an individual shipping unit. The shipping containers shall be in compliance with the National Motor Freight Classification, or the Uniform Freight Classification, as applicable.

416 Labeling - Cases shall be labeled to include all information required by United States Department of Commerce (USDC) regulations. Shipping container labels shall be illustrated in the contractor's technical proposal and contain the following information:

416.1 USDA Shield – The shield shall be at least 2 inches high and shall appear on top or on the principle display panel of each case.



416.2 The applicable purchase order number.

416.3 A traceability code that includes information regarding production establishment, production date and production lot.

416.4 USDC Inspection Mark and Grade – The Processed Under Federal Inspection "PUFI" mark along with the Grade A Shield.

416.5 Material Number – 110601.

416.6 Product Name – Once-Frozen Alaska Pollock Blocks.

420 PALLETIZED UNIT LOADS

421 All product shall be stacked on new or well-maintained pallets and palletized with shrink wrap plastic, unless otherwise specified in the invitation. Pallet loads shall be stacked in a manner that minimizes the overhang of the shipping containers over the edges of the pallets and exposes each shipping container's principal display panel to facilitate certification examinations.

500 PRODUCT ASSURANCE

510 QUALITY ASSURANCE

511 All Alaska Pollock Block manufacturing facilities used in fulfilling USDA contracts shall be a United States Department of Commerce (USDC) Approved Establishment (HACCP QMP, IQA and Resident Inspector Plant) operating in accordance with all applicable regulations. A resident USDC inspector shall be present in a Resident Inspector Plant during fillet block manufacturing and grade fillet blocks in accordance with the U.S. Grade Standards. The contractors shall declare the type of NMFS inspection program they are operating under.

520 DELIVERED PRODUCT

- 521 Delivery Unit - Each delivery unit shall consist of 800 shipping containers with a net weight of 39,600 pounds. No tolerances shall be allowed.
- 522 All products shall be delivered to AMS assigned destinations under seal with tamper proof, tamper resistant, serially numbered, high security seals that meet the American Society for Testing and Materials Standard (ASTM) F1157-04 and/or the International Organization for Standards (ISO) 17712-2010 as required under the Master Solicitation. Seals shall be 1/8th-inch diameter cable, high-security bolt, or equivalent.

530 WARRANTY AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

- 531 Warranty – The contractor shall guarantee that the product complies with all specification requirements, production plan declarations, and provisions set forth in the Master Solicitation and Supplement.
- 532 Complaint Resolution – Customer complaint resolution procedures shall be included in the production plan. These procedures shall include: a point of contact, investigation steps, intent to cooperate with AMS, and product replacement or monetary compensation. The procedures shall be used to resolve product complaints from recipient agencies or AMS.

600 NON-CONFORMING PRODUCT

- 610 The contractor shall include a plan and [supporting documentation](#) to assure that non-conforming product is not delivered under USDA contracts. The plan shall address 1) control and segregation of non-conforming product, 2) removal of any USDA markings, and 3) disposition of non-conforming product, including vendor [documentation](#) of final disposition (e.g., diverted to commercial production, cooked or destroyed).

700 CONTACTOR CHECKLOADING

- 701 Contractor shall perform checkloading examinations at the time of shipment and issue a contractor's certificate to accompany each shipment that includes all of the following information:
- 701.1 Purchase Order Number/Purchase Order Line Item Number;
 - 701.2 Sales Order Number/Sales Order Line Item Number;
 - 701.3 Destination of shipment;
 - 701.4 Name of Product and applicable Material Number;
 - 701.5 Shipping Date;
 - 701.6 Production lot number(s) and date each lot was produced along with shipping container and immediate container code(s) and the code used that provides traceability to establishment number, production lot and date;

- 701.7 Count of shipping containers and total projected net weight in each production lot;
- 701.8 Identity of car or truck (car numbers and letters, seals, truck license, etc.) as applicable;
- 701.9 Contractor certification that product conforms with the applicable specification (FPPS-APB-2016);
- 701.10 Count and projected net weight verified and;
- 701.11 Signature of company official responsible for checkloading.