



Agricultural Marketing Service
Commodity Procurement Program
P.O. Box 419205, Mailstop 8718
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

PACKAGED BUTTER

FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

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Part 1 COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

Section 1.1 COMMODITIES

Product Specifications

A. Salted Butter. The product shall:

- (1) be U.S. Grade AA and conform to the United States Standards for Grades of Butter which is available at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/butter-grades-and-standards>.
- (2) not contain starter distillate ordiacetylene.
- (3) be processed from fresh cream. The cream shall not have been neutralized and shall have an acid degree value (ADV) of 1.5 or less.
- (4) be one solid piece in each container and the surface shall be smoothly finished. The product will be subject to a keeping quality test of seven days incubation at 72 degrees F to be performed by Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) at time of grading.

B. Light Butter shall comply with the USDA Specifications for Light Butter which is available at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/lightbutter.pdf>

Production Requirements

- A. The product delivered to the Government shall have been manufactured and packaged in the United States from milk that was produced in the United States and not previously owned by the Government, and in plants that have been inspected and approved by the Dairy Grading Branch, Dairy Programs, AMS.
- B. The product may be frozen in bulk, provided it is packaged and graded not more than 60 days prior to the date of delivery to the Government.
- C. At the time of delivery to the Government, the product shall have a temperature not less than 35 degrees F and not greater than 40 degrees F.

Liability

The contractor shall be liable for losses for latent defects including, but not limited to failing to meet U.S. Grade AA, which are discovered within 180 days of the date of delivery to the Government.

Net Weight Requirements

- A. The product shall be packaged with 1/4-pound solid prints (**4 prints per 1-pound carton**) or 25 kilograms, whichever is stated in the solicitation.

- B. Shipping containers shall be packed with 36 **1-pound** cartons (4 1/4- pound prints per **1-pound** carton)
 - (1) Individual shipping containers packed with:36 1/4-pound cartons shall weigh not less than 35.75 net pounds;
 - (2) 25 kilograms shall weigh not less than 55.115 net pounds.
- C. The total net weight of all shipping containers test weighed by AMS within a lot shall not vary more than one-tenth (0.1) of one percent under the aggregate marked net weight of all shipping containers within the lot.

Section 1.2 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. AMS shall perform the product testing and quality analysis to ensure that the product meets the commodity specifications. The quality, date(s) of manufacture, and weight will be evidenced by grading certificates issued by AMS.
- B. If the product fails to meet contract specification on one or more factors on the first inspection, the contractor may arrange with AMS for subsequent inspections. The inspections may be conducted at origin or a subsequent point of delivery if the provisions of 7 CFR 58.22 through 58.32 issued under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, with respect to retest, appeal, and new inspections can be met. At the option of the contractor, rejected lots may be reworked including correcting packaging deficiencies and removing unsatisfactory containers, and such reworked lots may be resubmitted for AMS inspection. When subsequent inspections are made, the results of the last inspection shall be used as the basis of payment under the contract.
- C. Examination and certification by AMS does not relieve the contractor of its responsibility to deliver the product which complies with all contractual and specification requirements.
- D. Contractors shall notify the Government immediately of lots that fail to meet contract requirements.
- E. The butter delivered to the Government shall have been manufactured in the United States in plants that were inspected and approved by the Dairy Grading Branch, Dairy Programs Division, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The USDA AMS plant approval code must match the appropriate product or operation code for the commodity being manufactured.

Part 2 CONTAINER AND PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

Section 1.2 COMMERCIAL STANDARDS

- A. Contractors shall supply commercial brand products only and shall certify at the time of submission of an offer that the commercial product being delivered has a history of successful distribution and use in domestic commercial channels and is sold on the commercial market with an established level of consumer acceptance.

B. Container and packaging requirements are those used in the current commercial shipping practices and shall comply with:

- (1) At contractor's option, a statement such as "Not for Retail Sale" may be printed on the principal display panel of the food label.
- (2) The manufacturer's lot code/lot identification number shall be shown on the commercial bill of lading.
- (3) Shipping containers shall be marked to show the maximum safe stacking height. It is the responsibility of the contractor in cooperation with the shipping container manufacturers to determine the safe stacking height.
- (4) For identification upon receipt at delivery warehouses, all commercial- labeled product shipping documents shall specify "FOR USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS."

B. Container, packaging and unitization requirements shall comply with Section 4A52.211-3, 4A52.211-4, and 4A52.211-6 in the Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurement-Domestic Programs which is available at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/MSCP.pdf>.

Section 2.2 MONTH/YEAR OF PACK

- A. The month/year of pack shall be shown on all **primary packaging (immediate containers)** and shipping containers.
- B. A date fill code may be applied in addition to, but not in lieu of, the month/year of pack.

Section 2.3 LOT CODE/CERTIFICATE NUMBER

A lot code or official inspection certificate number shall be legibly marked on all primary shipping materials. Contractors may use any type of lot coding system, provided a unique code is used to identify each lot under a contract. When requested contractors shall provide to the Government an explanation of the lot coding system utilized.

Section 2.4 STATE AND PLANT NUMBER

The State and plant number shall be printed on each shipping container. The State and plant number is assigned by the State and reported by AMS in "Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service."