Date Issued: February 10, 2000

Shelled Nuts, Announcement FV-212
Commodity Specifications, FV212-CS1

AMENDMENT NO. 1

PURCHASE OF SHELLED NUTS FOR DISTRIBUTION
TO CHILD NUTRITION, NEEDY FAMILY AND OTHER DOMESTIC FEEDING PROGRAMS

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the commodity specifications for Whole, Shelled Almonds contained the Commodity Specifications, FV212-CS1. The following revised language replaces the language contained in **I. General, G. Packing, Labels and Packaging; II. Individual Commodity Specifications, A. Whole, Shelled Almonds**; and **Exhibit 4, Universal Product Codes** of the Commodity Specifications, FV212-CS1 issued in October 1999.

I. General

G. Packing, Labels and Packaging

1. Primary Containers

   The nuts must be packed to an average net weight of 24 (12/2 lb.) or 25 pounds for shelled whole almonds; 25 pounds for slivered almonds; 24 (24/1 lb.) or 30 pounds for walnuts, in bags made of polyethylene or similar material approved by the Food and Drug Administration for contact with nuts. Roasted almonds shall be vacuum sealed inside corrugated, fiberboard cartons. Nitrogen flush and seal is optional for roasted almonds. The bags must be commercially acceptable and of such size to allow a complete over-lapping closure for Natural almonds or a complete seal for Roasted almonds. The bags must be packed in new, good quality, shipping cases of corrugated, fiberboard construction, rated at a minimum of 200 pounds per square inch bursting strength.

2. Secondary Container (case) Markings

   The bags shall be further enclosed within new, corrugated fiberboard cartons (cases) acceptable by common or other carriers for safe transportation to destinations. Flaps, gaps and other openings may not exceed 1 inch and must be fully glued or sealed with tape. If tape is used in

lieu of glue, it must be clear and of commercially acceptable width and strength. The tape must extend at least two inches down the sides or ends.

Cases must be marked in such a manner that they contain all of the symbols, statements and information contained in Exhibit 1, "Required Markings for Shipping Containers". Cases may be marked by printing or stenciling or by preprinted, self-adhesive stickers. Exact arrangement and adherence to font size is not required. The case markings must be clearly marked, easily read, and substantially the same as specified in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 2 shows an alternative placard that may be applied to a new, corrugated fiberboard case acceptable by common or other carriers for safe transportation to destinations.

The cases must be new, of good quality, and of domestic fiber 200 pound test cases, using a 33 pound kraft medium (42-33-42) or equivalent, with a 275 pound test collar /8 inch greater in height than the inside container depth (69-33-69) or 275 pound bursting strength (44 edge crust test) so as to ensure acceptance by common carrier for safe transportation. Closures should be adequate to ensure sanitary storage; or

Use a 300 pound burst strength cases with no collar or divider in lieu of above, providing the cases are constructed using 76/36/76 kraft paper.

The first three layers of cases on the pallets will be stacked in columns to avoid excessive bulging of the cases. All remaining layers will be alternate-interlock stacked.

Cases must have the recycling statement shown in Exhibit 5, "Please Recycle" Symbol and Statement or Exhibit 6 "Corrugated Recycles" Symbol and Statement.

II. Individual Commodity Specifications

A. Whole, Shelled Almonds

1. Grade: U.S. No. 1 Grade prior to roasting, which includes a chip and scratch allowance of 10 percent.

a. Mission variety must meet all the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade with the exception of an additional 10 percent chip and scratch allowance (20% total) prior to roasting.

2. Types: Whole Natural and Whole Roasted
3. Variety: Nonpareil, California, Neplus, or Mission
4. Size: 30 –32 A.O.L.
5. Pack Size: 25 lb. and 12/2 lb.
6. Chemical:

(i) Moisture: 3.5 percent maximum (Roasted)
6.5 percent maximum (Natural)

(ii) Aflaxtoxin: 10 ppb or less

7. Roasted can be nitrogen flushed or vacuum packed.
8. Inspection must be done before roasting.

Samples for chemical and biological specifications will be drawn by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by CDFA. (Moisture analysis may be certified by the Inspection Service).

Exhibit 4

Universal Product Codes

Shelled Nuts	Primary Container	Secondary Container
Slivered Almonds (25 lb.)		1 07 15001 01253 8
Natural Shelled Almonds (25 lb.)		1 07 15001 01256 9
Natural Shelled Almonds (12/2 lb.)		1 07 15001 01264 4
Roasted Shelled Almonds (25 lb.)		1 07 15001 01255 2
Roasted Shelled Almonds (12/2 lb.)		1 07 15001 01263 7
English Walnut Pieces		1 07 15001 01257 6
Shelled Walnuts (24/1 lb.)		1 07 15001 01259 0

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Proden
Contracting Officer
Commodity Procurement Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Program