

METRIC

A-A-20208B
September 9, 2008
SUPERSEDING
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COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

CHEESE, CHEDDAR, REDUCED FAT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description (CID).

1. SCOPE. This CID covers reduced fat cheddar cheese packed in commercially acceptable containers, suitable for use by the Federal, State, local governments, and other interested parties; and for use in Child Nutrition Programs.

2. PURCHASER NOTES.

2.1 Purchasers shall specify the following.

- Style(s) and shred size(s) of reduced fat cheddar cheese required (Sec. 3).
- When analytical requirements are different than specified (Sec. 6.1).
- When analytical requirements need to be verified (Sec. 6.3).
- Manufacturer's quality assurance (Sec. 9.1), Manufacturer's/distributor's certification (Sec. 9.2) or USDA certification (Sec.9.3).

2.2 Purchasers may specify the following.

- Special labeling and packaging requirements (Sec. 10).

3. CLASSIFICATION. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall conform to the following list, which shall be specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

Styles and shred sizes.

Style 1 - Block

Style 2 - Shredded

Shred size A - Up to 4.75 mm (3/16 in) length and width

Shred size B - Other (as specified by purchaser)

FSC 8910

4. MANUFACTURER’S/DISTRIBUTOR’S NOTES. Manufacturer’s/distributor’s products *shall meet* the requirements of the:

- Salient characteristics (Sec. 5).
- Analytical requirements: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 6).
- Manufacturer’s/distributor’s product assurance (Sec. 7).
- Regulatory requirements (Sec. 8).
- Quality assurance provisions: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 9).
- Packaging requirements other than commercial: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 10).

5. SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.

5.1 Processing. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall be prepared and packaged in accordance with good manufacturing practices (21 CFR Part 110).

5.1.1 Pasteurization. All dairy ingredients shall be pasteurized at a temperature of not less than 71.7°C (161°F) for a period of not less than 15 seconds, or for a time and at a temperature equivalent thereto in phosphatase destruction.

5.1.2 Dairy ingredients. Dairy ingredients used in the manufacture of reduced fat cheddar cheese shall originate from a plant that has been approved by the Dairy Grading Branch (DGB), Dairy Programs (DP), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA.

5.1.3 Manufacturing plants. The manufacturing plants shall be eligible for Section I listing in the most recent version of the publication Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service.

5.1.4 Anticaking agent. If an anticaking agent is used, the amount used shall be the minimum required to produce the desired effect, but shall not exceed 2.0 percent of the weight of the reduced fat shredded cheddar cheese.

5.2 Finished product. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall contain between 25 to 33.3 percent less fat than that of regular cheddar cheese. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall comply with all applicable Federal regulations including those contained in 21 CFR § 133.113 for cheddar cheese, 21 CFR § 101.62 for food nutrient content claims for fat, 21 CFR §101.13 for general principles for nutrient content claims, and 21 CFR § 130.10 *Requirements for foods named by use of a nutrient content claim and a standardized term.* The shredded reduced fat cheddar cheese shall also comply with 21 CFR § 133.146 for grated chesses.

5.3 Quality specifications.

5.3.1 Flavor and odor. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall have a pleasing flavor. It may be lacking in flavor development or may possess slight characteristic cheddar cheese flavor. The reduced fat cheddar cheese may possess very slight acid, bitter, or slight feed flavor, but shall not possess any undesirable flavors or odors.

5.3.2 Body and texture. The block reduced fat cheddar cheese body and texture shall be firm, compact, and should be slightly translucent and shiny. It may have a few mechanical openings (1 to 3 openings per plug) if not large and connecting. The block reduced fat cheddar cheese shall be free from gas holes. The body may be very slightly gummy, slightly mealy or coarse, and definite curdy. Reduced fat shredded cheddar cheese shall be free flowing and of uniform size and shape. It shall not mat, crumble, oil off, or contain excessive fines.

5.3.3 Appearance. The block reduced fat cheddar cheese shall be free of mold but may be slightly soiled, rough, or lopsided. The institutional or consumer size packages shall be free of mold and soil.

5.3.4 Color. The reduced fat cheddar cheese block shall have a fairly uniform, bright attractive appearance, and may be slightly wavy. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall be colored or uncolored, but if colored, it shall be a medium yellow-orange. The reduced fat shredded cheddar cheese shall not vary in color.

5.3.5 Shred size. For shred size A, the reduced fat shredded cheddar cheese shall have a length and width up to 4.75 mm (3/16 in) in either dimension.

5.3.6 Fines. Reduced fat shredded cheddar cheese shall not contain more than 6.0 percent fines. For shreds whose length and/or width is 1.6 mm (1/16 in) or less, the fines content shall be determined using a Standard Test Sieve No. 14 (1.4 mm). For shreds whose length and/or width is greater than 1.6 mm (1/16 in), the fines content shall be determined using a Standard Test Sieve No. 8 (2.36 mm).

5.4 Age and storage requirements. The reduced fat cheddar cheese must be at least 20 days old when inspected and shall be aged at 1.7 to 5.5°C (35 to 42°F) prior to inspection. This aging may take place before or after the cheese is shredded. The cheese must be refrigerated after manufacturing, be located in a cooler and stored at temperatures between 1.7 to 5.5°C (35 to 42°F) until delivered.

5.5 Shelf life. The shelf life of the reduced fat cheddar cheese shall not be less than 5 months after manufacture, when stored at 1.7 to 5.5°C (35 to 42°F).

6. ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

6.1 Analytical requirements. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the reduced fat cheddar cheese shall conform to the following analytical requirements.

6.1.1 Fat content. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall contain not less than 19.2 percent total fat (as marketed) and not more than 22.9 percent total fat (as marketed).

6.1.2 Moisture content. The reduced fat cheddar cheese moisture content shall not exceed 49.0 percent.

6.1.3 Salt content. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall contain not less than 1.4 percent but not more than 2.0 percent salt.

6.1.4 pH. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall have a pH value higher than 5.30, except shredded cheese, which shall not have a pH value higher than 5.35.

6.1.5 Meltability. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall demonstrate satisfactory meltability characteristics, and shall be at the No. 3 or greater level in accordance with the USDA, AMS, DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures issued on January 2, 2001.

6.2 Preparation of sample. A minimum of 100 g (3.5 oz) of reduced fat cheddar cheese must be blended to uniformity in a minimum time using a Robot Coupe food processor (AOAC method 983.18) or equivalent. This uniform sample may then be used in the analyses for fat, moisture, salt, and pH.

6.3 Analytical testing. When specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, analyses shall be in accordance with the following methods from the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International, and the latest edition of the USDA - DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures, or the latest edition of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method</u>
Fat	933.05 <u>1/</u>
Moisture	926.08 <u>1/</u>
Salt	935.43 or 983.14 <u>1/</u>
pH	Quinhydrone, Ch. 15 <u>2/</u>
Meltability	Section C.5 <u>3/</u>
Fines	See Sec. 5.3.6

- 1/ The 18th edition of the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International.
- 2/ The 17th edition, 2004 of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products.
- 3/ The USDA, AMS, DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures issued on January 2, 2001.

6.4 Test results. The test results for fines, fat, moisture, and salt shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent. The test results for pH shall be reported to the nearest 0.01 value. The test results for meltability shall be reported in accordance with DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures. Any result not conforming to the analytical requirements shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

7. MANUFACTURER'S/DISTRIBUTOR'S PRODUCT ASSURANCE. The manufacturer/distributor shall certify that the reduced fat cheddar cheese provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this CID, conform to their own specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same reduced fat cheddar cheese offered for sale in the commercial market. The purchaser reserves the right to require proof of conformance.

8. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. The delivered reduced fat cheddar cheese shall comply with all applicable Federal and State mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sale of the reduced fat cheddar cheese within the commercial marketplace. The delivered reduced fat cheddar cheese shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder. The reduced fat cheddar cheese shall comply with the allergen labeling requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. When the reduced fat cheddar cheese is used for the National School Lunch Program, the cheese must comply with all applicable provisions of the Child Nutrition Programs.

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS. *Purchaser shall specify 9.1, 9.2 or 9.3.*

9.1 Manufacturer's quality assurance and plant survey. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchaser order, the product manufacturer shall be required to have their facilities inspected by USDA, AMS, DP, DGB, and be eligible for listing in Section I of the AMS publication Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service. *(An AMS plant survey verifies that, at the time of the survey, the manufacturer produces products in a clean, sanitary environment in accordance with Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 110 - Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packing, or Holding Human Food and the requirements contained in 7 CFR Part 58 General Specification for Dairy Plants Approved for USDA Inspection and Grading Service.)*

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9.2 Manufacturer's/distributor's certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the manufacturer/distributor will certify that the reduced fat cheddar cheese distributed meets or exceeds the requirements of this CID.

9.3 USDA certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order that product quality and acceptability or both be determined, the USDA, AMS, DP, DGB, shall be the certifying program. DGB inspectors shall certify the quality and acceptability of the reduced fat cheddar cheese in accordance with DGB procedures which include selecting random samples of the reduced fat cheddar cheese, evaluating the samples for conformance with the salient characteristics of this CID and other contractual requirements, and documenting the findings on official DGB certificates. In addition, when required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, DGB inspectors will examine the reduced fat cheddar cheese for conformance to the United States Standards for Condition for Food Containers in effect on the date of the solicitation. To qualify for this option the plant must be listed in Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service (see Sec. 9.1).

10. PACKAGING. Preservation, packaging, packing, labeling, and case marking shall be commercial unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

11. USDA INSPECTION NOTES. When Section 9.3 is specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, USDA certification shall include evaluation of the quality and condition of samples of the reduced fat cheddar cheese and compliance with requirements in the following areas.

- Salient characteristics (Sec. 5).
- Analytical requirements *when specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order* (Sec. 6.1). When USDA testing of reduced fat cheddar cheese is specified, DGB inspection personnel shall select samples and submit them to the USDA, Science and Technology Programs (S&TP) laboratory for analysis.
- Packaging requirements (Sec. 10 or as specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order).

12. REFERENCE NOTES.

12.1 USDA Certification Contacts.

12.1.1 USDA certification contact. For USDA certification, contact the **Branch Chief, Dairy Grading Branch, DP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0230, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0230, telephone (202) 720-3171 or on the Internet at: www.ams.usda.gov/dairygrading.**

12.1.2 Analytical testing and technical information contacts. For USDA, AMS technical information on analytical testing, contact: **Branch Chief, Technical Service Branch, Science and Technology Programs (S&TP), AMS, USDA, STOP 0272, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0272, telephone (202) 690-0621 or via E-mail: shirleyj.wright@usda.gov.**

12.1.3 CN meal pattern requirements contact. For CN crediting information, contact the **Head, Technical Assistance Section, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone (703) 305-2609 or on the Internet at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>.**

12.2 Sources of documents.

12.2.1 Sources of information for nongovernmental documents are as follows:

Copies of the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International may be obtained from: **AOAC International, 481 North Fredrick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417, telephone (301) 924-7077. Internet address: <http://www.aoac.org>.**

Copies of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products may be obtained from: **American Public Health Association, Publications Sale, P.O. Box 753, Waldorf, MD 20604-0753, telephone (301) 893-1894 or on the Internet address at: <https://secure.matrixgroup.net/apha/media/orderform.cfm>.**

12.2.2 Sources of information for governmental documents are as follows:

Applicable provisions of the: General Specifications for Dairy Plants Approved for USDA Inspection and Grading Service are contained in 7 CFR Part 58 Subpart B, the Child Nutrition on Programs are contained in 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, and Appendices A and C; the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act are contained in 16 CFR Parts 500 to 503; and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is contained in 21 CFR Parts 1 to 199. These documents may be purchased from. **Superintendent of Documents, New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover/NOVUS, and American Express) purchases may be made by calling the Superintendent of Documents on (866) 512-1800, (202) 512-1800 or on the Internet at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.**

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Copies of the General Specifications for Dairy Plants Approved for USDA Inspection and Grading Service, Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service, and DA INSTRUCTION 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures are available from: **Dairy Grading Branch, Dairy Programs, AMS, USDA, STOP 0230, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0230, telephone (202) 720-3171 or on the Internet at: www.ams.usda.gov/dairygrading.**

Yield information for reduced fat cheddar cheese is available in the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* available online at: <http://teammnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/foodbuyingguide.html>.

Copies of this CID, the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers, and beneficial comments, recommendations, additions, deletions, clarifications, etc., and any data which may improve this CID are available from and/or provided to: **Branch Chief, PPB, FVP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0247, telephone (202) 720-9939, Fax (202) 690-1527, via E-mail: FQAStaff@usda.gov or on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/FQAS>.**

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