

Fruit & Vegetable Program Specialty Crops Inspection Division 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Room 1536-S, STOP 0240 Washington, DC 20250-0240

March 20, 2017

AMENDMENT NO. 6

COMMODITY SPECIFICATION FROZEN VEGETABLES – June 2014

The purpose of this amendment is to changes in the Commodity Specification for Frozen Vegetables:

- Add exceptions to (CID) to I. General requirements
- Add Order of Precedence for requirements
- Revised Packing, Labels and Packaging requirements
- Separate styles of green beans
- Remove analytical and micro requirements for Pepper and Onion blend
- Add three new commodities: Four way Mixed Vegetables, Butternut Squash, and Diced Potatoes

Deletions are strikethroughs and additions/changes are shown in **blue** below:

I. General

B. Exceptions to U.S. Standards and/or or Commercial Item Description (CID)

Exceptions to the U.S. Standards for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) canned vegetables purchases **and/or or Commercial Item Description (CID)** are found in Section II, Individual Commodity Specifications, of this document.

1. Order of Precedence

If the contract documents are inconsistent or contradictory, the following order of precedence will prevail: Solicitation/IFB, Master Solicitation, Amendments to the Commodity Specifications, and Commodity Specifications and/or Supplement(s).

I. Packing, Labels and Packaging

1. Primary Containers

a) Vendors have the option to use commercial/retail labeling and packaging which meets all applicable FDA requirements (link to: <u>FDA Food Labeling Regulations</u>) and suitably code marked so

that the product can be identified with related inspection certificates or traceability in the event of a recall. Retail labels must meet minimum requirements as specified in the Master Solicitation.

All products must be packed in new, commercially acceptable primary containers which meets all applicable FDA packaging and labeling requirements (link to: FDA Food Labeling Regulations).

For containers with net weight of 3 pounds or less.

- 1. Product labeling (regardless of package type and color) shall have at least 1 color in addition to black and/or white and a visual representation of the product if the container is not clear.
 - OR
- 2. For non-transparent printed poly containers: Must have product viewing window of sufficient size that the product within is easily identifiable.

Minimum FDA labeling requirements are:

- Statement of identity, or name of the food
- Net quantity statement
- Ingredient statement
- Manufacturer or distributor location statement
- Allergen declaration (if product contains a major allergen)
- A "Keep Frozen" statement
- Contains a code which allows traceability of the product in the event of a recall
- 2. Secondary Container (case) and Markings
 - Primary containers shall be further enclosed within new, corrugated fiberboard cartons (cases) acceptable by common or other carriers for safe transportation to destinations.
 - Case flaps, gaps, and other openings may not exceed 1 inch and must be fully sealed with tape. Tape must be clear and of commercially acceptable width and strength. The tape must extend at least two inches down the sides or ends.
 - Mixing and matching of USDA and commercial labeling methods will not be acceptable
 - Two or more different commercial labels are not allowed within a shipping unit (truckload)
 - For institutional/foodservice pack sizes (larger than 3 lbs net weight) minimum labeling information listed above must

appear on the secondary container if not included on the primary packing

- The construction of shipping cases shall be adequate to withstand normal refrigerated shipping and cold storage
- Corrugated fiberboard construction, rated at a minimum of 275 pounds per square inch bursting strength for 30-pound cartons and 40 pound cases and 225 pounds PSI for 20 and 25 pound cases
- Markings for Non-Commercial Shipping Containers must meet requirements of Exhibit 1
- II. Individual Commodity Specifications
 - **D.** Frozen, Green Beans
 - 4. Styles <u>For Material Code 100351, product will be only Style a. CUT,</u> unless specified differently in the Solicitation/IFB
 - a. Cut provided that the cut style units are one inch in length or longer.
 - b. Sliced lengthwise, or French style.
 - c. Whole.
 - E. Frozen, Mixed Vegetables
 - 1. Grade U.S. Grade B or better.
 - a. 3 way mix corn, peas, and carrots.b. 4 way mix corn, peas, carrots, and green beans.
 - 2. Proportions of Ingredients 4 way mix (+ or- 10 percent).
 - a. 25 percent by weight carrots (diced style 3/8 to 1/2 inch cube).
 - b. 25 percent by weight green peas.
 - c. 25 percent by weight corn (sweet, golden or yellow, whole kernel corn).
 - d. 25 percent by weight cut style green beans predominantly of 1/2 inch to 1-1/2 inch cuts
 - M. Frozen, Vegetable Blends Vegetable blends shall meet the salient characteristics specified in CID A-A-20294A, effective on the date of the Solicitation/IFB with the following exception:
 - Section 6.1 Analytical Requirements in CID A-A-20294A –
 Remove this requirement from Commodity Specification/CID for Frozen Pepper and Onion Blend.

- N. Frozen, Butternut Squash
 - 1. Grade U.S. Grade A based on the U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Squash (Summer Type) with the following exceptions:
 - Style Diced, approximately 3/4 x 3/4 inch cubes
 - A poorly cut dice is defined as any units smaller than one half the volume of the predominant size unit.
 - 2. Net Weight 6/5 pound containers per case
- O. Frozen, Potatoes
 - 1. Grade U.S. Grade A based on U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Hash Brown Potatoes.
 - 2. The potatoes will be blanched but will <u>not</u> be fried.
 - 3. Style Diced approximately ½ x ½ inch cubes and which contain not more than 90 grams, per sample unit, of units smaller than one half the volume of the predominant size unit.
 - 4. Net Weight 6/5 pound containers per case.

Frozen Vegetables	WBSCM Material	Primary Container	Secondary Container
Green Beans – <u>Cut</u> <u>style (30 lb.)</u>	100351		1 07 15001 00351 2
Mixed Vegetables 4- way mix 6/5 pound	110871	7 15001 10871 5	1 07 15001 10871 2
Butternut Squash Diced 6/5 pound	110861	7 15001 10861 6	1 07 15001 10861 3
Frozen Potatoes, Diced 6/5 pound	110844	7 15001 10844 9	1 07 15001 10844 6

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.