USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Commodity Procurement Staff

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3522, STOP S-0239
Washington, DC 20250-0239

May 2013

AMENDMENT NO. 2

SUPPLEMENT 303 TO AMS MASTER SOLICITATION

PURCHASE OF HAM, BONELESS, FULLY-COOKED, WATER-ADDED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO FEDERAL FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

This Amendment is issued in order to update Supplement 303 attachments, as follows:

1) Replace Attachment II with the attached Technical Requirements Schedule- Animal Handling and Welfare 2013 (TRS-AHW-2013), effective **July 2013**.

Note: TRS-AHW-2013 does not become effective until **July 2013**. The following information will clarify how the new requirements relate to contractor /supplier eligibility in AMS Commodity Procurement Programs (solicitations and contract awards):

a. Approved suppliers will remain eligible to participate in AMS Commodity Procurement Programs under TRS-AHW-2010 on any solicitation issued on or before June 30, 2013.
b. Meanwhile, approved suppliers (and, likewise, any supplier currently in the process of becoming approved) may address the animal welfare portion of their technical programs according to the updated TRS-AHW-2013, have it reviewed by LPS Program's Food Safety and Commodity Specification (FSCS) Division, and approved pending a successful onsite capability assessment conducted by the LPS Program's Grading and Verification Division (GVD). This will have no effect on their eligibility to bid during this period of time.
c. **Approved suppliers must revise their technical programs according to the updated TRS-AHW-2013 and be re-approved before July 1, 2013, to be eligible to bid on any solicitations issued on or after that date**.

All other terms and conditions remained unchanged.

Attachments

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AMS
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

APPROVED

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS SCHEDULE – ANIMAL HANDLING AND WELFARE 2013 (TRS-AHW-2013)

Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR)
Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program
Food Safety and Commodity Specification Division
Room 2608 S-Bldg, Phone: (202) 260-8295

Effective: July 2013

100 GENERAL

101 This document is for use by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Livestock, Poultry and Seed (LPS) Program to ensure that the animal handling and welfare requirements for Federal nutrition assistance programs reflect industry best practices.

110 PROGRAM APPROACH

111 All animal harvest facilities that supply raw materials from bovine, porcine and ovine species for the production of AMS destined finished products must develop and implement a written program that is consistent with a systematic approach to humane animal handling and welfare as outlined in 69 FR 54625. The program will ensure proper animal handling and welfare techniques are conducted from the time the transportation conveyance enters the facility's premises through the stunning and exsanguination of the animal.

120 PROGRAM SUBMISSION

121 The program will be submitted as a supporting document to the organization's approved technical proposal and must address the requirements outlined in **Section 200 – PROGRAM COMPONENTS**.

200 PROGRAM COMPONENTS

201 The contractor must ensure that any facility that harvests animals has a:

210 MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT

211 Steering Committee (internal) which is ultimately accountable for animal handling and welfare initiatives within the organization.

212 Mission Statement on animal handling and welfare that is distributed to all employees and conspicuously displayed at the premises.

Approved by CMS CMS
Date Issued: 08/11/08
Date Revised: 07/01/13

220 TRAINING PROGRAM

221 Training program on Animal Handling and Welfare that:

221.1 is provided to all employees interacting with animals;

221.2 covers the AMI *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 2012 Edition;*

221.3 is facilitated by an employee that has earned and maintained a certification of animal handling and welfare training, such as that offered through the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) or an equivalent.

221.4 is conducted no less frequently than once a year for each designated employee; and,

221.5 requires signed documentation from each employee and confirmation by signature of the designated, certified trainer upon successful completion of training.

230 QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

231 Written quality management plan (internal) which addresses all provisions of Chapter 3: Transportation Audit Guidelines, 7 Core Criteria and Chapter 4: Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning, 7 Core Criteria, of the AMI *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 2012 Edition*, found at the following web site address:

231.1 http://www.animalhandling.org/ht/d/sp/i/26752/pid/26752

232 This internal quality management plan must also provide for routine assessment and monitoring of humane handling through the use of a numerical scoring system conducted by a trained employee.

240 NON-AMBULATORY AND U.S. SUSPECTS

241 CATTLE

242 Written protocol in-place and enforced that precludes the receipt of or having non-ambulatory, disabled cattle on the harvest facility premise. In the event that animals become non-ambulatory or disabled at any time while present at the harvest facility, the animal will be humanely euthanized and the carcass removed from the premise in a timely manner through contracted services or other means.

243 HOGS AND SHEEP

244 Written protocol in-place and enforced that ensures all animals designated by FSIS as U.S. Suspects (9 CFR 301.2) that are slaughtered are appropriately segregated during the harvest and production processes and precluded from inclusion in any products purchased by AMS.

300 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ELIGIBILITY

301 The program will be audited (external) by AMS or a firm accredited by AMS. The accreditation of the firm will be conducted by the Grading and Verification Division (GVD) through the **USDA ISO Guide 65 Program.** Alternatively, at the option of the organization, the audits can be performed by GVD auditors.

302 Audit findings thought to be in conflict with Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations will be communicated to the establishment's FSIS Inspector in Charge (IIC) or designee.

310 AUDIT FORMAT

311 AMS or the AMS accredited auditing firm will conduct audits utilizing the following format:

312 TRANSPORTATION SEGMENT (*CHAPTER 3: AMI RECOMMENDED ANIMAL HANDLING GUIDELINES AND AUDIT GUIDE 2012 EDITION*)

312.1 Audited organizations must pass Core Criteria 1 and 6 with a minimum scoring of excellent, Core Criteria 2 through 5 with a minimum scoring of acceptable and Core Criteria 7 must be adhered to with full compliance (zero tolerance) each time an audit is performed.

313 ANIMAL HANDLING AND STUNNING SEGMENT (*CHAPTER 4: AMI RECOMMENDED ANIMAL HANDLING GUIDELINES AND AUDIT GUIDE 2012 EDITION*)

313.1 Audited firms must pass Core Criteria 1 through 5 with a minimum scoring of acceptable while Core Criteria 6 and 7 must be adhered to with full compliance (zero tolerance) each time an audit is performed.

320 INITIAL AUDIT

321 Initial audit must be performed prior to award of contracts.

330 AUDIT FAILURE

331 If an audit is failed for any of the Core Criteria, the organization is not eligible to provide product until such a time that corrective and preventative actions are approved by the COTR, implemented and proven effective.

340 AUDIT FREQUENCY AND STATUS

341 STANDARD - Until four (4) consecutive successfully passed audits are attained, an audit must be conducted within 3 months of the previous audit.

342 MONTHLY - If at any time an audit identifies any of the Core Criteria not meeting the pass requirements while in the STANDARD phase, auditing will be required to be conducted on a monthly basis once corrective and preventative actions have been approved by the COTR, implemented and proven effective. This schedule will be for a period of time until four (4) successive audits are found to meet the passing requirements noted in **SECTION 310 – AUDIT FORMAT**; at which time audits shall be conducted on the STANDARD basis.

343 If four successfully conducted audits are sequentially completed within a one year period while in STANDARD auditing phase, the facility may move to a SEMI-ANNUAL audit basis.

344 SEMI-ANNUAL - Semi-annual audits may continue until such time that a failed audit is reported or a period of greater than six months has elapsed without any audits being performed; at which time the audits must resume as described for STANDARD audits.

400 COTR

401 The COTR can declare an organization's Animal Handing and Welfare Program out of compliance at any time.