



United States Department of Agriculture

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Marketing and  
Regulatory  
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Agricultural  
Marketing  
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Specialty  
Crops  
Program

# Commodity Specification for Dehydrated Potato Products

May 2019

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## **GENERAL**

### **Quality Requirements**

Dehydrated products (product/commodity) produced under this Commodity Specification must meet the requirements specified in the applicable Commercial Item Description (CID) A-A-20032 effective on the date of the Solicitation/Invitation for Bid (IFB). The Quality Requirements are published separately and are incorporated herein and made a part of this Commodity Specification.

### **Exceptions to Quality Requirements**

Exceptions to the Quality Requirements for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) dehydrated products purchases are found in Individual Commodity Specifications, of this document. Additional exceptions may be specified in the applicable Solicitation/IFB. Any exceptions contained in the applicable Solicitation/IFB shall have precedence over the requirements contained herein, for that Solicitation/IFB only.

### **Product Origin**

1. Commodities delivered pursuant to this Commodity Specification shall have originated from crops that have been 100 percent grown, processed, and packed in the United States, its territories or possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, (hereinafter referred to as the United States). See the Master Solicitation.
2. If the contractor handles any commodity originating from sources other than the United States, the contractor must have a written plan to segregate the commodity. This segregation plan will include an identification and record system for all commodities to ensure they are completely segregated and cannot be used to fulfill purchase orders awarded by USDA. Such segregation plan must be made available, within 10 days of purchase order award, to representatives of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).
3. The contractor must maintain positive written documentation records evidencing 100 percent domestic origin to the grower level. Contractors must also ensure that the documentation provided by any subcontractors demonstrates the same level of traceability. The burden of proof of compliance is on the contractor.
4. Documentation may include load or warehouse storage receipts for raw product (i.e., bin tags), product blend (formulation) records, product coding explanations, finished product warehousing records, shipping or payment records, or other documentation or evidence that clearly establishes the product's domestic origin.
5. Contractors must provide the domestic origin certification and supporting documentation records to representatives of the AMS Specialty Crops Program, Processed Products Division (USDA Inspector) when requesting inspection service. USDA Inspectors will select and review at least one code for each purchase order to

determine compliance with the Agency's domestic origin requirements.

6. Such records must be available for review by the Government in accordance with FAR 52.214-26. In the event of an audit, AMS auditors will examine as many codes as is necessary to verify compliance.
7. Self-certifications by contractors and subcontractors will not be accepted.
8. Failure to observe this requirement may lead to suspension or debarment, purchase order termination, and penalties at Title 18, Section 1001 of the U.S. Code concerning falsification of information.

### **Kosher Products**

Occasionally, USDA solicits offers to sell KOSHER products. Such products are identified on the solicitation with the letter "K" incorporated into the WBSCM material descriptions (see Exhibit 5 for specific products.) These products shall comply with applicable dietary (kosher) laws as established by the "613 Council of Kashruth." Manufacturing plants shall be certified for compliance with the aforementioned requirement by contacting the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York (BJENY) at 646-472-5366. At no cost to the vendor, a rabbinic supervisor will be sent to certify compliance of the manufacturing plant with the dietary (kosher) laws. Vendors must not bid on these purchase units unless they can be properly certified.

For other products, when commercial Kosher certification is requested in the solicitation, products must bear one of the Kosher certification symbols illustrated in Exhibit 9.

### **Packing Season**

All dehydrated products must be from the current packing season/crop year, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Solicitation/IFB.

### **Grade of Dehydrated Products**

All dehydrated products must meet requirements specified. Commercial Item Description (CID) A-A-20032 effective on the date of the Solicitation/IFB unless otherwise specified in Individual Commodity Specifications, herein or the applicable Solicitation/IFB.

### **Fill of Container**

1. Contractor must meet either the net weight or the fill weight for the product as specified in Individual Commodity Specification; item 5 – Net Weight Specifications.
2. The average net weight must meet the net weight as printed on the label and as indicated above.

## **LABELS AND PACKAGING**

### **Primary Containers (Packages and Labeling)**

1. Vendors have the option to use commercial labeling and packaging which meets all applicable FDA requirements and contains a code which allows traceability of the product in the event of a recall or they may use non-commercial packaging and labeling as specified in the Master Solicitation.
2. The processors' own commercially acceptable "brand" labels may be used on all Solicitations/IFBs unless prohibited by the Solicitation/IFB. Distributor's "brand" labels are not acceptable.
3. All products must be packed in new, commercially acceptable primary containers (packages). Dehydrated Potatoes shall be packed only in the container size and type specified in the applicable Solicitation/IFB. The primary package must be suitably code marked so that the product can be identified with related inspection certificates.
4. For one-pound packages, labels must also meet the following formatting criteria:
  - a. Must include, at a minimum, Two (2) colors, in addition to black and/or white.
  - b. Must incorporate a graphic (photo or illustration) depicting the product/contents on the principal display panel if the packages are not clear or contain an adequate viewing window.
  - c. Contractors are required to print the nutritional labeling information on each bag as required by FDA regulations. Contractors are also required to print the instruction for use on each bag.
  - d. Suitably code marked so that the product can be identified with related inspection certificates.

### **Secondary Containers (case) for Commercial Labels**

1. Primary containers shall be further enclosed within new, corrugated fiberboard cartons (cases) acceptable by common or other carriers for safe storage and transportation to destinations.
2. Case flaps, gaps, and other openings may not exceed 1 inch and must be sealed with tape. The tape must be clear and of commercially acceptable width and strength. The tape must extend at least two inches down the sides or ends.
3. Mixing and matching of commercial and non-commercial labeling methods will not be acceptable.

4. Two or more different commercial labels will not be acceptable within a shipping unit (truck load).

### **Secondary Containers (case) for Non-Commercial Labels**

1. Packages with non-commercial labels shall be further enclosed within new, corrugated fiberboard cartons (cases) acceptable by common or other carriers for safe storage and transportation to destinations. Flaps, gaps and other openings may not exceed 1 inch and must be fully sealed with tape. The tape must be clear and of commercially acceptable width and strength. The tape must extend at least two inches down the sides or ends.
2. Cases must be marked in such a manner that they contain all the required symbols, statements and information contained in Exhibits 2, 3, or 4 as applicable.
3. Cases may be marked by printing or stenciling or by preprinted, self-adhesive stickers. Self-adhesive stickers must be affixed to the case in such a manner that they cannot be removed intact.
4. Exhibit 4 shows an alternative placard that may be applied to a non-commercial, new, corrugated fiberboard case acceptable by common or other carriers for safe transportation to destinations. This placard must be affixed to the case in such a manner that it cannot be removed intact.
5. Cases must have the recycling statement shown in Exhibit 6, "Please Recycle" Symbol and Statement or Exhibit 7, "Corrugated Recycles" Symbol and Statement.
6. The shipping cases for flakes packaged in polybags shall be constructed of corrugated fiberboard that is rated at a minimum of 175 pounds per square inch bursting strength, B flute, with a full winged "U" divider constructed of the same type of corrugated fiberboard as the shipping case. The winged "U" divider shall cover 2/3 of the length of the case on one side and 1/3 of the length of the other side, shall divide the case into equal compartments, and shall be of the same height as the shipping case. "H" dividers will be acceptable. No divider in the shipping case is required for flakes packed in chipboard carton containers, or with corrugated fiberboard that is rated at a minimum of 275 pounds per square inch bursting strength, C flute. Sheets of craft paper shall be placed, top and bottom, inside the shipping cases. However, the craft paper sheets may be omitted for products packed in chipboard cartons, or if longitudinal flaps of shipping cases are sealed with 2-inch-wide sealing tape. Tack sealing is not acceptable.
7. Mixing and matching of commercial and non-commercial labeling methods will not be acceptable.
8. Two or more different commercial labels will not be acceptable within a shipping unit (truck load).

## UNIVERSAL PRODUCT CODES (UPC)

Contractor UPCs are acceptable for primary containers with commercial labels and/or secondary fiberboard cases enclosing commercially labeled product.

UPCs are not required for commercial labeling with tray pack shipping containers.

Products with alternative, non-commercial labels must use the UPCs listed in Exhibit 5 on the primary and secondary containers.

## PALLETIZATION REQUIREMENTS

### Pallets

Products must be on 48 X 40-inch, non-reversible, flush stringer, and partial four-way entry. New pallets must be good quality wood. Used pallets must be No.1 hardwood or its equivalent in new softwood. **Broken or damaged pallets are unacceptable.** If pallet exchange is desired, the contractor shall arrange for pallet exchange with consignees. USDA is in no way responsible for arrangement of pallet exchange.

### Unitization

Each delivery unit of canned fruit must be unitized. Shipping cases must be stacked and secured from top to bottom, so that each container and layer of containers becomes an integral part of the pallet. Either stretch wrapping with plastic film or “lock ‘n pop” is acceptable. The palletized product must be loaded in the conveyance in such a way that will prevent shifting and damage to the containers of product.

### Shipment and Delivery

#### Quantity Tolerance

Contractor will be allowed a tolerance on the final delivery of plus or minus 50 cases of **each product**, from **each shipping point** named in the purchase order.

## INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

### Dehydrated Potato Flakes

The dehydrated potatoes shall meet the salient characteristics specified in CID A-A-20032 effective on the date of the Solicitation/IFB for:

1. Type II, Style B – Flakes without Peel.
2. Additives or optional ingredients –



- a. Sodium sulfite or sodium acid sulfite or other approved sulfating agents – **up to** 500 parts per million (ppm) (Calculated as sulfur dioxide).
  - b. Any safe and suitable emulsifiers and/or antioxidants as permitted by provisions under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
3. Moisture – Not more than 9.0 percent.
  4. Reducing sugars – Not more than 4.0 percent.
  5. **Net Weight Specifications:**

<b>Package Weights</b>		
<b>Container</b>	<b>Minimum Sample Average</b>	<b>Lower Individual Limit</b>
16-ounce (1 pound) container	16 ounces (1 pound)	No less than 15.7 ounces
12/1-pound case	12 pounds	No less than 11 pounds, 12 ounces

6. Test Procedures – Test procedures shall be in accordance with the procedures outlined in CID A-A-20032 effective on the date of the Solicitation/IFB for vendors to sell.

## INSPECTION AND CHECKLOADING

### Requirements

Representatives of the AMS, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division (USDA Inspector) must perform the inspection and checkloading. See the Master Solicitation. **The cost of inspection, samples taken for inspection, mailing of review samples submitted for evaluation, and any chemical analysis required for testing shall be for the account of the Contractor.**

Inspection of dehydrated products must be performed not more than 12 months prior to shipment. Whether each lot offered meets the product and container requirements of the purchase order must be determined on the basis of representative sample units. Representative sample units will be graded according to the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Dehydrated Products and Related Products (7 C.F.R. Part 52), and United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers (7 C.F.R. Part 42.140), effective on the date of the Solicitation/IFB.

Case stamping in lieu of checkloading is acceptable, at the USDA Inspector's discretion and may be performed at any time up to 28 calendar days prior to shipment of the product. Contractors must be aware that if this option is exercised, and an AMS Inspector does not perform checkloading, the contractor assumes all risk for these shipments and deliveries.

**Certification**

Subject to (See the Master Solicitation) the acceptability of the quality, weight, packaging, and checkloading of the product must be evidenced by certificates issued by the USDA Inspector.

No product shall be shipped unless the USDA Inspector informs the contractor that a designated lot is acceptable. Notice by the USDA Inspector that a designated lot scheduled for shipment does not meet requirements of the purchase order shall constitute rejection of such lot.

**Procedures**

The contractor must give the USDA Inspector at least 7 days advance notice when scheduling inspection service. Prior to sampling, the contractor must furnish the USDA Inspector with a list of codes and the approximate number of cases per code.

Contractors are encouraged to submit requests for inspection in writing with verifiable receipt notice, such as email, to alleviate possible miscommunication.

**Laboratory Tests**

The Contractor must allow 14 days after product sampling for laboratory tests (when required) to be completed and returned.

**FAILURE TO MEET SPECIFICATIONS**

Any lot which fails applicable specifications prescribed herein will be rejected as not acceptable for delivery. If any lot of dehydrated products fails to meet the product or packaging requirement, the contractor may request in writing that USDA accept delivery of the lot. USDA may, at its option, accept delivery, provided that the purchase price is the purchase order price less a discount, to be determined by the Contracting Officer.

**EXHIBITS**

**Exhibit 1 - Non-Commercial Label for Dehydrated Flakes  
12/1 lb Pkg.**

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Front Panel

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INSTANT  
MASHED POTATOES  
GRANULES

INGREDIENTS: 1/

NET WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ 2/  
PURCHASE ORDER NO. 3/  
STORE IN COOL, DRY PLACE  
PACKED BY \_\_\_\_\_ 4/  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5/  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 1/ Ingredients shall be listed in descending order of predominance.
- 2/ Net weight shall be expressed in metric as well as avoirdupois units.
- 3/ Insert the last five digits of the purchase order number.
- 4/ Insert name of Packer and Packer's Address - City, State, and Zip Code.
- 5/ Insert Universal Product Code (see Exhibit 5).

Recycle symbols and statements can be placed on bottom panels (Exhibit "6" and "7").

**Exhibit 2 - Required Markings for Non-Commercial Shipping Containers**

<u>BOTH SIDE PANELS</u>	<u>BOTH END PANELS</u>
PRODUCT NAME 1/ 2/	PRODUCT NAME PURCHASE ORDER NO. 3/ <u>4/</u>
USDA SYMBOL - <i>USDA Symbol is optional.</i>	<u>5/</u>
STORE IN COOL, DRY PLACE	

Product name must be printed or stenciled on a separate line in letters at least three-fourths inch high, and all other information must be in letters less than three-fourths inch but at least three-eighths inch high. The USDA Food Symbol (optional) may be printed, stamped, or labeled and be of sufficient size to stand out prominently. Case markings must be limited to case codes and those contained in this Exhibit.

- 1/ Insert any additional product style, pack, packing media, or further definition as applicable; (i.e. Dehydrated Potato etc.).
- 2/ Insert the size and number of packages per case, i.e. 12/1 pound packages
- 3/ Insert the last five digits of the purchase order number.
- 4/ Insert name of Packer and Packer's Address - City, State, and Zip Code. This information can be placed on the end panels or the side panels.
- 5/ Insert Universal Product Code (see Exhibit 5).

Recycle symbols and statements can be placed on bottom panels (Exhibit "6" and "7")

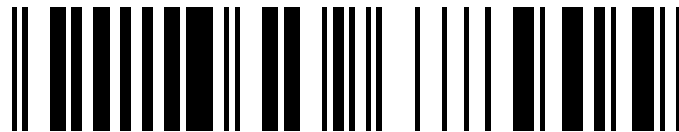
**Exhibit 3 - Alternative Label for Shipping Containers**  
(Includes all Required Information)



USDA Symbol is Optional

**Product Name**  
**Style**  
**Size/Number per case**  
**Purchase order Number xxxxx**  
**Packed by: ABC Growers**  
**Any Town, CA 99999**

**STORE IN A COOL DRY PLACE**



1234567891012345678910

**Exhibit 4 - Sample Alternative Label for Shipping Containers**



# Dehydrated Potato

## Flakes

12/1 lb. pkg.

**Purchase Order Number xxxxx**

**Packed by: ABC Growers**

**Any Town, CA 99999**

USDA Symbol is Optional

**STORE IN A COOL DRY PLACE**

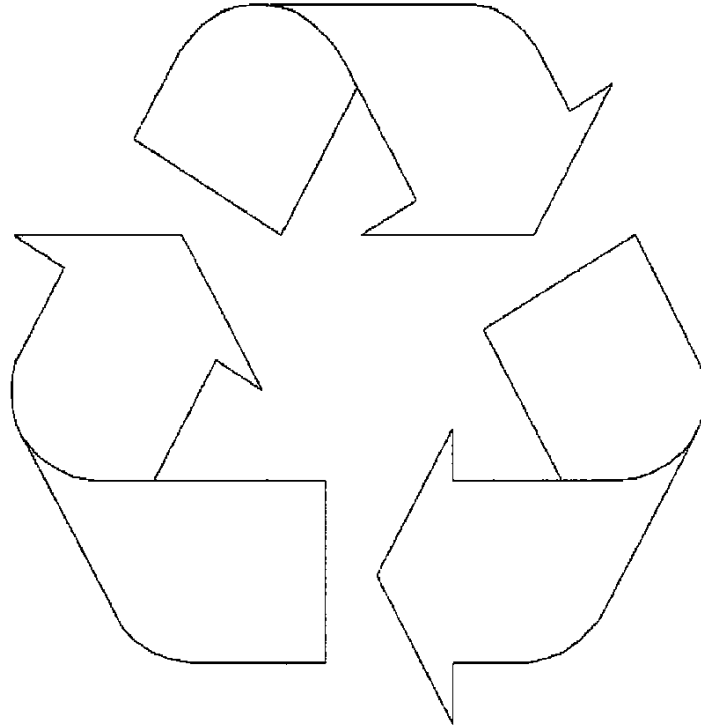


1 11 07 15001 01196 8

**Exhibit 5 – Universal Product Codes**

<b>Dehydrated Potatoes</b>	<b>WBSCM Material</b>	<b>Primary Container</b>	<b>Secondary Container</b>
<b>Dehydrated Flakes (12/1 lb.)</b>	100337	7 15001 10337 6	1 07 15001 10337 3

**Exhibit 6 - "Please Recycle" Symbol and Statement**



**PLEASE  
RECYCLE**



**Exhibit 7 - “Corrugated Recycles” Symbol and Statement**










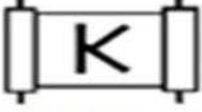

**Corrugated  
Recycles**

**Exhibit 8 - USDA Symbol**

**USDA Symbol is Optional**



**Exhibit 9 - Symbols for Kosher Products**

 <a href="http://oukosher.org/">http://oukosher.org/</a>	 <a href="http://trianglek.org/">http://trianglek.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.ok.org/">http://www.ok.org/</a>
 <a href="http://www.skskosher.com/">http://www.skskosher.com/</a>	 <a href="http://www.kof-k.org/">http://www.kof-k.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.cor.ca/">http://www.cor.ca/</a>
 <a href="http://www.star-k.org/default.htm">http://www.star-k.org/default.htm</a>	 <a href="http://scrollk.org/">http://scrollk.org/</a>	 <a href="http://www.kosher.org/">http://www.kosher.org/</a>