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**Agricultural Marketing Service**  
**Commodity Procurement Program**  
P.O. Box 419205, Mailstop 8718  
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

## **USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS**

**DFM2**  
**FLUID MILK**

**FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS**

Effective Date: **November 15, 2018**



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## USDA COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

### DFM2 FLUID MILK

#### FOR USE IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

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## **Part 1        COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS**

### **Section 1.1    COMMODITIES**

#### **A.        Quality of Product**

The fluid milk shall be Group I, pasteurized; type(s) shall be as stated in the Invitation for Bid (IFB), and meet the specifications of the Commercial Item Description (CID) A-A-20338, in effect on the date of the solicitation, which is available at

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/CIDMilkFluid.pdf>.

#### **B.        Production Requirements**

- (1)        The product delivered to the Government shall have been produced and processed in the United States and shall meet the following analytical requirements:
  - (a)        Milk solids-not-fat – not less than 8.25 percent.
- (2)        The plants in which the product is to be processed shall be in compliance with the requirements of the latest revision of the United States Public Health Service / Food and Drug Administration Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) and listed in the current [Interstate Milk Shippers Domestic Firm List](#).
- (3)        Pasteurized fluid milk shall be delivered and maintained at a temperature of 45 degrees F or below.

### **Section 1.2    WARRANTY**

The product shall have a shelf life of at least 12 days from the delivery date, or the maximum days allowed by local or state regulation upon delivery, whichever is less. The "Use By", "Sell By", or "Best By" date on the container shall match this shelf life requirement.

### **Section 1.3    QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**A.        [The contractor shall comply with all applicable testing requirements of the latest revision of the United States Public Health Service / Food and Drug Administration Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance \(PMO\).](#)**

**B.        Contractors shall notify the Government immediately of lots that fail to meet contract requirements.**

## **Part 2 CONTAINER AND PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 2.1 GENERAL**

This part provides the container specifications and packaging materials requirements used under this contract.

### **Section 2.2 COMMERCIAL PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Contractors shall supply commercial brand products only and shall certify at the time of submission of an offer that the commercial product being delivered has a history of successful distribution and use in domestic commercial channels and is sold on the commercial market with an established level of consumer acceptance.
- B. Container and packaging requirements are those used in the current commercial shipping practices and shall comply with:
- (1) Unitization requirements in Section 2.4.
  - (2) At contractor's option, a statement such as "Not for Retail Sale" may be printed on the principal display panel of the food label.
  - (3) The manufacturer's lot code/lot identification number shall be shown on the commercial bill of lading.
  - (4) Shipping containers shall be marked to show the maximum safe stacking height. It is the responsibility of the contractor in cooperation with the shipping container manufacturers to determine the safe stacking height.
  - (5) For identification upon receipt at delivery warehouses, all commercial-labeled product shipping documents shall specify "FOR USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS."
- C. A company name or brand name shall be shown on all shipping containers.

### **Section 2.3 CONTAINERS AND MATERIALS**

- A. All containers, closures, and packaging materials shall comply with FDA regulations and PMO Appendix J "STANDARDS FOR THE FABRICATION OF SINGLE-SERVICE CONTAINERS AND/OR CLOSURES FOR MILK AND/OR MILK PRODUCTS."

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/Milk/UCM612027.pdf>

See links below for single-service manufacturers from domestic or foreign origin.

1. Certified Manufacturers Of Single-Service Containers And/Or Closures For Milk And/Or Milk Products - Domestic -  
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FederalStateFoodPrograms/ucm2007965.htm#ss>
2. Certified Manufacturers Of Single-Service Containers And/Or Closures For Milk And/Or Milk Products - Foreign -  
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FederalStateFoodPrograms/ucm2007965.htm#sscodes>

- B. If the contractor purchases packaging and container ingredients from a foreign country and/or the package and container is manufactured in a foreign country, the package and container SHALL NOT display country of origin labeling. Phrases including, but not limited to, “Made in [Name of Foreign Country.]” or “Product of [Name of Foreign Country.]” are strictly prohibited.

## **Section 2.4 UNITIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

Shipments shall comply with the following unitization requirements:

- A. Unless otherwise specified by the Government, milk shipped in one-way paperboard or cardboard packaging shall be unitized (palletized and stretch wrapped).
- B. Pallets shall be:
  - (1) Constructed to facilitate the safe handling and transportation of the packaged product, as a unit, without loss or damage.
  - (2) A Number 2, four-way, reversible flush stringer with no broken runners or slats.
  - (3) Suitable for use in the shipment of food products.
- C. Plastic stretch wrap shall be:
  - (1) Constructed of a plastic film which is to be stretched a minimum of 50 percent beyond its original length when stretched around the pallet load.
  - (2) Applied as tightly as possible around all tiers of the palletized shipping containers. The shipping containers shall be held firmly in place by the stretch wrap.
- D. Pallet loads for both one-way cardboard and reusable crates shall be:
  - (1) Stacked in such a way as to minimize the amount that shipping containers overhang the edges of pallets.
  - (2) Blocked and braced or otherwise loaded into the conveyance in a manner that prevents shifting during transit.

## **Section 2.5 DATE AND PLANT CODE MARKINGS**

- A. Containers shall be marked with a “Use By”, “Sell By”, or “Best By” date indicating the month and day of best product quality.
- B. Containers shall be marked with a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) number and a plant number assigned by the [Interstate Milk Shippers List](https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FederalStateFoodPrograms/ucm2007965.htm#nucs), in accordance with the national uniform coding system described at <https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FederalStateFoodPrograms/ucm2007965.htm#nucs>