

METRIC

A-A-20081E

April 7, 2006

SUPERSEDING

A-A-20081D

April 1, 1996

COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

BACON, PRECOOKED, SLICED, IN FLEXIBLE POUCHES

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

1. SCOPE. This CID covers precooked, sliced, shelf-stable bacon in flexible pouches, packed in commercially acceptable containers, suitable for use by Federal, State, local governments, and other interested parties; and as a component of operational rations.

2. PURCHASER NOTES.

2.1 Purchasers *shall specify* the following:

- Type(s) required (Sec. 3).
- When analytical requirements are different than specified (Sec. 6.1).
- When analytical requirements need to be verified (Sec. 6.2).
- Manufacturer's/distributor's certification (Sec. 9.1) or USDA certification (Sec. 9.2).

2.2 Purchasers *may specify* the following:

- When product examination is required (Sec. 9.3).
- Packaging requirements other than commercial (Sec. 10).

3. CLASSIFICATION. The precooked, sliced bacon shall conform to the following list which shall be specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

Types.

- Type I** - Institutional Size Pouch - 100 slices
Type II - Institutional Size Pouch - 150 slices
Type III - Institutional Size Pouch - 300 slices
Type IV - Other

AMSC N/A

FSC 8905

A-A-20081E**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 Preparation. The precooked, sliced bacon shall conform to the applicable provisions of the USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Meat Inspection Regulations (9 CFR Parts 301-350), the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book, be manufactured under sanitary standard operation procedures (SSOP) (9 CFR Part 416), and be in compliance with hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system requirements (9 CFR Part 417).

5.2 Raw material. The precooked, sliced bacon shall originate from fresh, not frozen pork bellies. The skinless bellies should have a weight range of 7-13 pounds.

5.2.1 Slicing. The pressed, cured and smoked slabs should be uniformly sliced yielding 12-15 slices per inch.

5.3 Finished product. The precooked, sliced bacon shall be skinless, fully cooked and placed layout style with edges abutting on sheets of parchment or commercial style paper with grease proof and wet-strength characteristics. The bacon shall be placed in flexible pouches and hermetically sealed under not less than 20 inches of mercury.

5.3.1 Size. The precooked, sliced bacon shall be uniform and not less than 12.7 cm (5.0 in) or more than 20.3 cm (8.0 in) long and not more than 3.8 cm (1-1/2 in) wide.

5.3.2 Odor and flavor. The precooked sliced bacon shall have a smoky, salty, cured, cooked bacon odor and flavor. There shall be no foreign odor or flavor (e.g. burnt, scorched, stale, sour, rancid, musty, or moldy).

5.3.3 Color. The precooked sliced bacon shall have a reddish brown lean portion and off-white to yellow tan fat portion.

5.3.4 Defects. There shall be no bacon slice cut or torn more than one half the width of the slice; nor have burnt edges or burnt areas measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension (a burnt edge is one in which the black color of carbonation is evident to the eye). Slices shall not

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break or crack when the ends are brought together. The bacon shall not contain glandular tissue measuring 12.7 mm (0.5 in) or more in any dimension; nor bone, cartilage, skin, or bruises measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension. No individual bacon slice shall separate more than one half the length of the slice.

5.4 Foreign material. All ingredients and finished product shall be clean, sound, wholesome, and free from evidence of rodent or insect infestation. There shall be no foreign material such as, but not limited to, dirt, insect parts, hair, wood, glass, or metal.

5.5 Date of pack. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the bacon shall be processed and packaged not more than 90 days prior to shipment.

6. ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

6.1 Analytical requirements. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the analytical requirements for precooked, sliced bacon shall be as follows:

6.1.1 Fat content. The average fat content of the precooked bacon shall be not more than 52.0 percent and the fat percentage of product in any individual container shall not exceed 65.0 percent.

6.1.2 Salt content. The salt percentage of product in any individual container shall not exceed 6.5 percent.

6.1.3 Water activity. The water activity (A_w) value for the finished product shall not be greater than 0.860. The unbiased standard deviation (sample-S) for the calculated mean shall not exceed the value specified in Table I. For calculated means lying between the tabular values, use the next higher tabular value.

A-A-20081E**TABLE I. Water activity values**

Calculated Mean (X)	Maximum Unbiased Standard Deviations (S)	Calculated Mean (X)	Maximum Unbiased Standard Deviations (S)	Calculated Mean (X)	Maximum Unbiased Standard Deviations (S)
0.860	0.0000	0.770	0.0236	0.680	0.0472
0.855	0.0013	0.765	0.0249	0.675	0.0485
0.850	0.0026	0.760	0.0262	0.670	0.0498
0.845	0.0039	0.755	0.0275	0.665	0.0511
0.840	0.0052	0.750	0.0288	0.660	0.0524
0.835	0.0066	0.745	0.0301	0.655	0.0537
0.830	0.0079	0.740	0.0314	0.650	0.0550
0.825	0.0092	0.735	0.0328	0.645	0.0563
0.820	0.0105	0.730	0.0341	0.640	0.0576
0.815	0.0118	0.725	0.0354	0.635	0.0590
0.810	0.0131	0.720	0.0367	0.630	0.0603
0.805	0.0144	0.715	0.0380	0.625	0.0616
0.800	0.0157	0.710	0.0393	0.620	0.0629
0.795	0.0170	0.705	0.0406	0.615	0.0642
0.790	0.0183	0.700	0.0419	0.610	0.0655
0.785	0.0197	0.695	0.0432	0.605	0.0668
0.780	0.0210	0.690	0.0445	0.600	0.0681
0.775	0.0223	0.685	0.0459		

6.2 Product verification. When USDA verification of analytical requirements is specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the following procedures will be followed.

6.2.1 Sampling procedures for water activity analyses. USDA certification service will select at least six pouches or the number of product containers based on USDA certification service sampling procedures and plans. The sample size shall be the whole pouch contents and the bacon shall not be ground.

6.2.2 Sampling procedures for fat and salt content analyses. After completion of the pouch filling and heat processing operations for each lot, 9 pouches of precooked, sliced bacon shall be randomly selected from the lot. These 9 pouches shall be randomly distributed as follows:

- Three shall be submitted to the laboratory for analysis.
- Three shall be submitted to the contractor.
- Three shall be retained by the AMS agent as a reserve sample.

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Analysis of reserve samples at the request of the contractor shall not be permitted unless the original analysis indicated that the involved lot will be discounted or rejected because of noncompliance with the fat or salt content requirement. When the reserve sample is analyzed, the analyses for both fat and salt shall be made and will be considered final. Unused reserve samples shall be returned to the contractor for inclusion in the same lot.

6.3 Analytical testing. Analytical testing shall be made in accordance with the following methods described in the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International. Product shall be prepared according to AOAC method 983.18.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method</u>
Fat	985.15
Salt	935.47
A _w	978.18

6.4 Test results. The test results for fat and salt shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent. Water activity shall be reported to the nearest 0.001 value. No individual sample shall have a water activity value exceeding 0.860. 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 precooked, sliced bacon provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this CID, conform to the their own specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same precooked, sliced bacon offered for sale in the commercial market. The purchaser reserves the right to require proof of conformance.

8. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. The precooked, sliced bacon shall originate and be produced, processed, and stored in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Meat Inspection Regulations of the USDA. The delivered precooked, sliced bacon shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sale of precooked, sliced bacon within the commercial marketplace.

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS. *Purchaser shall specify 9.1 or 9.2; purchaser may specify 9.3.*

9.1 Manufacturer's/distributor's certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the manufacturer/distributor will certify that the finished precooked, sliced bacon distributed meets or exceeds the requirements of this CID.

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9.2 USDA certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order that product quality and acceptability or both be determined, the Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch, Livestock and Seed Program (LSP), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP), USDA, shall be the certifying program. MGC graders shall certify the quality and acceptability of the precooked, sliced bacon in accordance with MGC procedures which include selecting random samples of the packaged precooked, sliced bacon, evaluating the samples for conformance with the salient characteristics of this CID and other contractual requirements, and documenting the findings on official MGC score sheets and/or certificates. In addition, when required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, MGC graders will examine the precooked, sliced bacon for conformance to the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers in effect on the date of the solicitation.

9.3 Product examination. FOR NON-DOD PROCUREMENTS ONLY. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, USDA shall conduct the following product examinations.

9.3.1 Pouch vacuum examination. The filled and sealed pouches shall be visually examined for conformance to the vacuum requirement not less than 96 hours after filling and sealing. The sealed pouch shall continue to exhibit tight adherence to the surface contours of the contents when a pulling force is applied at the center of each side seal. This force shall be applied by holding each side seal between thumb and forefinger of each hand, while simultaneously exerting a slight pull with both hands. Any evidence of loss of vacuum shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one filled and sealed pouch. The inspection level shall be I of ANSI/ASQ Z1.4-2003, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65.

9.3.2 End item examination. The end item lot size, expressed as number of pouches, shall be declared to the AMS agent by the contractor. Product from opened pouches used for product examination shall remain the property of the contractor. The sample size and acceptance and rejection criteria shall be as indicated by Table II. The sample unit shall be one filled and sealed pouch. Pouches selected for examination must be free of damage. The product shall be examined for defects listed in Table III.

TABLE II. Sampling criteria for product examination

Lot size (pouches)	Sample size (number of pouches)		Defect categories			
			<u>Major</u>		<u>Minor</u>	
	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	AC	RE	AC	RE
2 to 150	5	2	0	1	0	1
151 to 35,000	5	8	0	1	1	2

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TABLE III. Product examination 1/

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
101		Less than 99 whole slices for Type I, less than 148 whole slices for Type II, or less than 297 whole slices for Type III per pouch. <u>2/</u>
	201	Product not arranged on parchment paper or layered as specified.

1/ Defects shall be scored once per sample unit.

2/ The lot shall be rejected if the average total slice count is less than the specified number per pouch.

9.3.3 Slice examination. The finished precooked, sliced bacon shall be examined for the salient characteristics of this CID. The sample size and acceptance and rejection criteria shall be as indicated by Table IV. The precooked, sliced bacon shall be examined for the defects listed in Table V. Slices shall be selected proportionately from the pouches used in the product examination or from the number of pouches necessary to comply with the sample size. Failure of the sample to meet the acceptance criteria specified in Table IV for the salient characteristics of this CID shall be cause for rejection of the lot. The product shall be examined at a temperature of 21.1 to 26.7°C (70 to 80°F).

TABLE IV. Sampling criteria for slice examination

Lot size (slices)	Sample size (number of slices)		Defect categories			
			<u>Major</u>		<u>Minor</u>	
	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	AC	RE	AC	RE
501 to 1,200	80	80	5	6	10	11
1,201 to 3,200	125	125	7	8	14	15
3,201 to 10,000	200	200	10	11	21	22
10,001 to 35,000	315	200	14	15	21	22
35,001 or more	500	200	21	22	21	22

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Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
101		Presence of bone measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension.
102		Presence of cartilage measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension.
103		Burnt edge or burn area measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension.
104		Slice which breaks or cracks when the ends are brought together.
	201	Presence of skin measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension.
	202	Presence of bruise measuring 7.6 mm (0.3 in) or more in any dimension.
	203	Presence of glandular tissue measuring 12.7 mm (0.5 in) or more in any dimension.
	204	Slice cut or torn more than one-half the width of the slice.
	205	Slice less than 12.7 cm (5.0 in) or more than 20.3 cm (8.0 in) in length.
	206	Slice exceeding 3.8 cm (1-1/2 in) in width.
	207	Separation of more than one-half the length of the slice.

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 9.2 is specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, USDA certification shall include evaluation of the quality and condition of samples of packaged precooked, sliced bacon 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 analytical testing is specified, AMS inspection personnel shall select samples and submit them to the USDA, Science and Technology Program (S&TP) laboratory for analysis.
- Packaging requirements (Sec. 10 or as specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order).

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12. REFERENCE NOTES.

12.1 USDA certification contact. For USDA certification, contact the **Customer Service Director, MGC Branch, Office of Field Operations, LS, AMS, MRP, USDA, Denver West Office Building 53, Suite 350, Golden, CO, telephone (720) 497-2520, fax (720) 497-0571, or via E-mail: willard.goad@usda.gov.**

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

12.3 Sources of documents.**12.3.1 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 Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, telephone (301) 924-7077. Internet address: <http://www.aoac.org>.**

Copies of the latest version of ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes, may be obtained from: **American Society for Quality, 600 North Plankinton Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53201, telephone (800) 248-1946. Internet address: www.asq.org.**

12.3.2 Sources of information for governmental documents are as follows:

Applicable provisions of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Regulations are contained in 9 CFR Parts 300 to 350 and Subchapter E, the sanitary standard operation procedures (SSOP) are contained in 9 CFR Part 416, and the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system requirements are contained in 9 CFR Part 417. These documents may be purchased from: **Superintendent of Documents, ATTN: New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Credit card (MasterCard or Visa) purchases may be made by calling the Superintendent of Documents on (202) 512-1800 or on the Internet at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.**

Copies of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book are available on the Internet at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_Policies/index.asp.

USDA, Meat Grading and Certification Branch instructions are available on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mgc/instructions/mginstructions.htm>.

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Copies of this CID and the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers are available from: **Head, Food Quality Assurance Staff, FVP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0243, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0243, telephone (202) 720- 9939, Fax (202) 690-0102, via E-mail: FQASTaff@usda.gov or on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fvqual.htm>.**

Beneficial comments, recommendations, additions, deletions, clarifications, etc., and any data which may improve this document should be sent to: **Commander, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, ATTN: DSCP-FTSL, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5092 or Fax (215) 737-2963, or via E-mail: Sally.A.Gallagher@dla.mil.**

Military activities should submit requests for copies of this CID to: **Standardization Documents Order Desk, Document Automation And Production Service, 700 Robbins Avenue, Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094 or on the Internet at: <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/>.**

MILITARY INTERESTS:**CIVIL AGENCY COORDINATING ACTIVITIES:****Custodians**

Army - GL
Navy - SA
Air Force - 35

DOJ - BOP
HHS - NIH, IHS
USDA - FV
VA - OSS

Review Activities**PREPARING ACTIVITY:**

Army - MD, QM
Navy - MC

DLA - SS
(Project No. 8905-2006-005)

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