

METRIC

A-A-20329
December 30, 1999

COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

SOUP MIXES, DEHYDRATED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description as a replacement for Commercial Item Description, A-A-20283 and Military Specifications: MIL-S-43931; MIL-S-3059; MIL-S-35046; MIL-S-1049; and MIL-S-35051.

1. SCOPE. This Commercial Item Description (CID) covers quick-cooking and instant dehydrated soup mixes, 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. PROCUREMENT NOTES.

2.1 Purchasers *shall specify the following:*

- Type(s), style(s), flavor(s), and option(s) of dehydrated soup mixes desired (Sec. 3).
- When analytical requirements are different than specified (Sec. 6.1).
- When analytical requirements need to be verified (Sec. 6.3).
- Manufacturers'/distributors' certification (Sec. 9.2) or USDA certification (Sec. 9.3).

2.2 Purchasers *may specify the following:*

- Manufacturers' quality assurance (Sec. 9.1 with 9.1.1) or (Sec. 9.1 with 9.1.2).

3. CLASSIFICATION. The dehydrated soup mixes shall conform to the types, styles, flavors, and options in the following list which shall be specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

Types, styles, flavors, and options.

Type I - Quick-cooking

Type II - Instant

AMSC N/A

FSC 8935

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

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- Style A** - With added monosodium glutamate (MSG)
- Style B** - No added MSG
- Style C** - Reduced sodium (21 CFR Part 101.61)
- Style D** - Reduced sodium (21 CFR Part 101.61) with no added MSG

- Flavor 1** - Vegetarian Vegetable
- Flavor 2** - Chicken Vegetable
- Flavor 3** - Cream of Vegetable
- Flavor 4** - Lentil
- Flavor 5** - Black Bean
- Flavor 6** - Potato Leek
- Flavor 7** - Navy Bean
- Flavor 8** - Chicken Noodle
- Flavor 9** - Green Pea
- Flavor 10** - Corn Chowder
- Flavor 11** - Cream of Broccoli
- Flavor 12** - Cream of Spinach
- Flavor 13** - Tomato
- Flavor 14** - Onion
- Flavor 15** - Minestrone
- Flavor 16** - Other

- Option a** - With additional ingredients, such as, but not limited to: starches, food colorings, wheat gluten, soy products, acidulent sweeteners, barley/grains, or vegetable oil.
- Option b** - No additional ingredients other than those listed in Sec. 5.5.1.

4. MANUFACTURERS'/DISTRIBUTORS' NOTES. Manufacturers'/distributors' products *shall meet* the requirements of the:

- Salient characteristics (Sec. 5).
- Analytical requirements: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 6).
- Manufacturers'/distributors' assurance (Sec. 7).
- Regulatory requirements (Sec. 8).
- Quality assurance provisions: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec.9).

5. SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.

5.1 Definitions.

5.1.1 Type I quick cooking. Type I dehydrated soup mixes are considered quick cooking when they can be prepared by cooking in boiling water for five minutes.

5.1.2 Type II instant. Type II dehydrated soup mixes are considered instant when they can be reconstituted in boiling water in approximately one minute.

5.2 Processing. The dehydrated soup mixes shall be prepared in accordance with good manufacturing practices (21 CFR Part 110).

5.3 Vegetables. The vegetables used in the preparation of the dehydrated soup mixes product shall be prepared from the latest season's crop. The dehydrated vegetables used in the soup mixes shall be prepared from properly matured, wholesome, clean vegetables.

5.4 Age requirement. The dehydrated soup mixes shall be processed and packaged less than one year prior to delivery.

5.5 DEHYDRATED PRODUCT.

5.5.1 Ingredients. The dehydrated soup mixes shall contain soup base and ingredients, such as, but not limited to; meat or poultry, noodles, macaroni, rice, lentils, beans, carrots, onions, celery, green beans, potatoes, corn, parsley, red and/or green bell peppers, cabbage, salt, seasonings, in addition to other ingredients that are specific to the flavor and optional ingredients.

5.5.1.1 Meat or poultry. The dehydrated soup mixes may contain dehydrated meat or poultry appropriate for the specific flavor. The dehydrated soup mixes containing poultry shall meet the requirements of 9 CFR 381.167.

5.5.1.2 Noodles. When present in the dehydrated soup mixes the noodles shall contain eggs or egg yolks, enriched wheat flour, durum semolina flour and/or whole wheat flour.

5.5.1.3 Macaroni. When present in the dehydrated soup mixes the macaroni shall contain enriched wheat flour, durum semolina flour and/or whole wheat flour, and may be formed into various shapes such as but not limited to: elbow, shell, twists, or ribbons.

5.5.1.4 Soup base. The soup base may be derived from vegetable and/or meat/poultry stock, natural and/or artificial, as appropriate for the specific flavor of dehydrated soup mix.

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5.5.2 Flavor and odor. The dehydrated soup mixes shall have appropriate characteristic flavors and odors. There shall be no foreign flavors and odors such as, but not limited to; burnt, scorched, stale, rancid, musty, or moldy.

5.5.3 Color. The dehydrated soup mixes shall possess a color representative of the specific flavor.

5.5.4 Flavoring ingredients. The flavoring ingredients for Flavor 1, Vegetarian Vegetable dehydrated soup mix shall contain only natural vegetable flavorings and spices. Beef, chicken, turkey, or other animal-based broth products are not allowed.

5.5.5 MSG content. When Styles B and D dehydrated soup mixes, are specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, there shall be no added MSG. **Note:** Naturally occurring MSG in soup mixes is generally insignificant.

5.5.6 Defects. The dehydrated vegetables used in the dehydrated soup mixes shall be reasonably free from defects which detract from the appearance of the product, such as, but not limited to; peel, blemished units, discoloration, and extraneous vegetable material. Defective units shall not exceed 16 percent by weight of all vegetable material based on the average of samples inspected.

5.6 REHYDRATED PRODUCT.

5.6.1 Flavor and odor. The rehydrated soup mixes shall have appropriate characteristic flavors and odors. There shall be no foreign flavors and odors such as, but not limited to: burnt, scorched, stale, or rancid.

5.6.2 Color. The rehydrated soup mixes shall have a color characteristic for the flavor.

5.6.3 Consistency. The soup mixes shall fully and completely rehydrate when prepared according to package directions.

5.6.4 Texture. All ingredients shall adequately rehydrate. The rehydrated noodles, macaroni, or rice shall be soft but not mushy. The rehydrated meat or poultry, vegetables, lentils, and beans shall be slightly soft and tender. Rehydrated soup shall not contain excessively chewy or hard pieces.

5.6.5 Defects. The rehydrated soup mixes shall be practically free from any defects that materially affect the edibility of the product.

5.7 Foreign material. All ingredients and finished product shall be clean, sound, wholesome, and free from evidence of rodent or insect infestation.

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6. ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

6.1 Chemical and microbiological tolerances. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, analytical requirements for the dehydrated soup mixes shall comply with the following tolerances:

Fat	Shall not exceed 5.0 percent
Aerobic (Standard) Plate Count	Less than 50,000 per gram in any sample
Reduced sulfite <i>Anaerobic Clostridium</i>	Less than 10 CFU (Colony Forming Units) per gram
Yeast	Less than 10 CFU per gram
Mold	Less than 10 CFU per gram
<i>Coliform</i>	Less than 3 per gram using the MPN (Most Probable Number) technique
<i>E. coli</i>	Less than 3 per gram using the MPN technique
<i>Salmonella</i>	Shall be negative

TABLE I. Moisture and sodium requirements

Flavor	Moisture (max percent by weight)	Sodium (max mg per 100 gm [3.5 oz])
Flavor 1 - Vegetarian Vegetable	5.1	1830
Flavor 2 - Chicken Vegetable	6.3	2870
Flavor 3 - Cream of Vegetable	4.4	3785
Flavor 4 - Lentil	7.5	1430
Flavor 5 - Black Bean	5.4	1250
Flavor 6 - Potato Leek	6.4	2705
Flavor 7 - Navy Bean	5.9	2157
Flavor 8 - Chicken Noodle	4.7	3030
Flavor 9 - Green Pea	6.4	1700
Flavor 10 - Corn Chowder	5.0	1940
Flavor 11 - Cream of Broccoli	3.8	4300
Flavor 12 - Cream of Spinach	3.9	4345
Flavor 13 - Tomato	3.0	4180
Flavor 14 - Onion	5.5	6080
Flavor 15 - Minestrone	6.0	2875

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.

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6.2.1 Sampling procedures. USDA inspection service will select the number of product containers based on USDA inspection service sampling procedures and plans.

6.2.2 Composite sample. A composite sample shall be used to make a 0.45 kg (1-pound) composite sample.

6.3 Preparation of sample: Product shall be prepared according to the following method: In an appropriately sized blender container, blend the sample to uniformity in a minimum of time.

6.4 Analytical testing: When specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, analyses shall be in accordance with the following methods from the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International or as specified below:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method</u>
Moisture	934.06 (at 70°C for 6 hours)
Sodium	969.23, 985.35, 984.27
Fat	922.06
Aerobic (Standard) Plate Count	966.23 or 990.12
Yeast and Mold	Section 16.51 <u>1</u> , 997.02
<i>Coliform</i>	966.24
<i>E. coli</i>	966.24
<i>Salmonella</i>	967.28, 986.35, 994.04, 996.08
Reduce Sulfite <i>Anaerobic</i> <i>Clostridium</i>	976.30, 37.71 - 37.73 <u>1</u>
Monosodium Glutamate <u>2</u>	970.37

1/ Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, Third Edition, 1992.

2/ For Style B (without added monosodium glutamate) dehydrated soup mixes.

6.5 Test results. The test results for moisture, fat, and monosodium glutamate shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent. The test results for sodium shall be reported to the nearest milligram per gram. The test results for the Aerobic (Standard) Plate Count shall be reported to the nearest 2,500 CFU per gram. Each test result for both yeast and mold shall be reported to the nearest 10 CFU per gram. The test results for *coliform* and *E. coli* shall be reported to the nearest MPN. The test results for *salmonella* shall be reported as negative or positive. The test results for reduced sulfite *anaerobic clostridium* shall be reported to the nearest CFU per gram. Any result not conforming to the finished product requirements shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

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7. MANUFACTURERS' PRODUCT ASSURANCE. The manufacturer shall certify that the dehydrated soup mixes provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this CID, conform to the their own specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same prepared dehydrated soup mixes offered for sale in the commercial market. The purchaser reserves the right to require proof of conformance.

8. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. The delivered dehydrated soup mixes shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sale of dehydrated soup mixes within the commercial marketplace. Delivered dehydrated soup mixes shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and regulations promulgated thereunder.

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS. *Purchaser shall specify 9.2 or 9.3; purchaser may specify 9.1 with 9.1.1 or 9.1 with 9.1.2.*

9.1 Manufacturers' quality assurance. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the product manufacturer shall be required to provide evidence, by certificate, that the manufacturing plant has undertaken one of the following quality assurance measures within 12 months prior to providing a bid, or no later than 10 business days from the date of awarding of the contract. Failure to provide this documentation within the proper time frame will result in the contact being terminated for cause.

9.1.1 Plant systems audit. A plant systems audit (PSA) conducted by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), or other third party auditing service, within 12 months prior to the date of the awarding of the contract. *(An AMS PSA verifies the manufacturer's capability to produce products in a clean, sanitary environment [21 CFR 110 - Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packing, or Holding Human Food Regulations], adhere to food safety requirements, and have in place an internal quality assurance program. The AMS PSA determines the manufacturer's ability to produce under this CID, if the products of interest are identified at the time of the PSA.)*

9.1.2 Plant survey. A plant survey conducted by USDA, AMS, or other third party auditing service, within 12 months prior to the date of the awarding of the contract. *(An AMS plant survey audit verifies that, at the time of the survey, the manufacturer produces products in a clean, sanitary environment in accordance with 21 CFR 110 - Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packing, or Holding Human Food Regulations.)*

9.2 Manufacturers'/distributors' certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the manufacturer/distributor will certify that the finished dehydrated soup mixes distributed meets or exceeds the requirements of this CID.

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9.3 USDA certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order that product quality and acceptability or both be determined, the Processed Products Branch (PPB), AMS, USDA, shall be the certifying program. PPB inspectors shall certify the quality and acceptability of the dehydrated soup mixes in accordance with PPB procedures which include selecting random samples of the packaged dehydrated soup mixes, evaluating the samples for conformance with the salient characteristics of this CID and other contractual requirements, and documenting the findings on official PPB score sheets and/or certificates. In addition, when required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, PPB inspectors will examine the dehydrated soup mixes for conformance to the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers in effect on the date of the solicitation.

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 9.3 is specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, USDA certification shall include evaluation of the quality and condition of samples of packaged dehydrated soup mixes, and compliance with requirements in the following areas:

- Salient characteristics (Sec. 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7).
- Analytical requirements *when specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order* (Sec. 6.2). When USDA analytical testing is specified, PPB 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).

12. REFERENCE NOTES.

12.1 USDA certification contact. For USDA certification, contact the **Branch Chief, PPB, FVP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0247, telephone (202) 720-4693, Fax (202) 690-1527, or via E-mail: james.rodeheaver@usda.gov.**

12.2 USDA laboratory contacts.

12.2.1 Analytical testing. For USDA analytical testing, contact the **Branch Chief, Laboratory Operations Coordination Staff, S&TP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0271, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0271, telephone (202) 690-1351, or via E-mail: scott.lough@usda.gov.**

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12.2.2 Technical information. 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 Source of information for nongovernmental documents are as follows:

Copies of the BAM and Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International may be obtained from: **AOAC International, 481 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.**

Copies of the Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, Third Edition, 1992, may be obtained from: **American Public Health Association, 1015 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005-2605. Internet address: <http://www.apha.org>.**

12.3.2 Sources of information for governmental documents are as follows:

Applicable provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are contained in 21 CFR Parts 1 to 199. This document 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) 512-1803 or on the Internet at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg>.

Copies of the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers are available from: **Chairperson, Condition of Container Committee, USDA, STOP 0243, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0243.**

Requests for copies of this CID should be sent to: **Program Head, Food Quality Assurance Program, FVP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0243, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0243, telephone (202) 720-9939, Fax (202) 690-0102, via E-mail: john.lund@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-HSL, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5092 or FAX (215) 737-2963.**

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Military activities should submit requests for copies of this CID to: **Standardization Documents Order Desk, Defense Automation Printing Service, 700 Robbins Avenue, Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.**

MILITARY INTERESTS:

Custodians

Army - GL
Navy - SA
Air Force - 35

Review Activities

Army - MD, QM
Navy - MC

CIVIL AGENCY COORDINATING ACTIVITIES:

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

PREPARING ACTIVITY:

DLA - SS

(Project No. 8935-P042)

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