Inspections for Operational Rations Purchased by the Department of Defense

United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service

Fruit and Vegetable Program

Processed Products Division

AIM Instructional System

Inspection Series

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INTRODUCTION

This instruction outlines the requirements and procedures for the inspection of food items purchased by Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support (Formerly Defense Supply Center Philadelphia). These subsistence items include food components produced for various Department of Defense (DOD) operational rations feeding programs, including Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) and other Individual Rations, and Group Rations. The procedures contained in these instructions are an integral part of Division services. If needed, contact your immediate supervisor for any situation not addressed in these instructions.

These instructions contain links to various internal and external sources of information. For inspection personnel without internet or intranet access, please contact your immediate supervisor to obtain hard copies of documents as needed.

GUIDE FOR ELECTRONIC USAGE

The Administrative, Inspection, and Management (AIM) System of instructional manuals is available electronically in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) at the following intranet address: http://agnis/sites/FV/PPB/AIM/default.aspx.

When accessed electronically, AIM materials have hyperlinks and hypertext (visible as underlined blue text) available to the PDF user. Clicking on a hyperlink takes the reader to a web site with information relating to the subject. Hypertext will link the reader to a different page within the current manual - or even a different manual - with information relating to the subject. For example, the hypertext in the Table of Contents allows a reader to go directly to the section of interest in the manual by clicking on the section title within the Table of Contents.

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SECTION I – OPERATIONAL RATIONS INTRODUCTION

I. BACKGROUND

The Processed Products Division (PPD) is responsible for coordinating and providing inspection of food components used in DOD's Operational Rations (OR) program; these include: the MRE individual ration, various rations designed for group feeding, and other specialized rations. This inspection program includes support from Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Commodity Programs and the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). These agencies work together, cross utilize personnel, and develop uniform procedures which results in delivery of effective and efficient inspection services and cost savings for producers and DOD.

Under most conditions, PPD inspectors are stationed in-plant where food components for Operational Rations are produced. PPD in-plant inspectors monitor and evaluate production, and certify finished production when it meets DOD contract requirements. This allows shipment to DOD sanctioned meal assembly facilities. In a few cases, inspection is provided by staff from other agencies. For example, the State of South Carolina poultry graders provide inspection at a processing facility in South Carolina. These graders are under the joint supervision of the State of South Carolina (SC); USDA, AMS Poultry Programs (PY); and PPD (for technical guidance). In addition, for inspection in American Samoa of pouch tuna for MRE and the First Strike Rations, PPD shares inspection duties with NMFS seafood inspection personnel.

Authority for the Operational Rations inspection service provided by PPD can be found in the Memorandum of Agreement between the DOD, DLA and USDA, AMS, as well as in DLA Troop Support contract requirements.

II. COORDINATION OF INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

PPD's Defense Contract Inspection Section (DCIS) is responsible for the coordination of subsistence inspection activities. DCIS staff provide oversight of formal inspection instructions, communicate inspection requirements to field supervisors and inspectors, establish contact with other USDA offices and other Government agencies as needed, and support inspection activities. In addition, DCIS is a resource for PPD Regional and Area supervisors, allowing for the rapid resolution of issues. DCIS serves as a liaison between DLA Troop Support and inspection personnel, and coordinates the execution of inspection procedures to ensure uniformity and responsiveness to DLA Troop Support's evolving needs. DCIS also provides information to the DLA Troop Support contracting office and answers questions about PPD inspection results.

SECTION II – OPERATIONAL RATIONS INFORMATION

I. DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY TROOP SUPPORT

DLA Troop Support performs the subsistence contracting function for DOD. The DLA Troop Support contract establishes the inspection requirements under which PPD performs inspection and certification activities.

DLA Troop Support's procurement of the MRE (which can be seen as a model for DLA Troop Support procurement of certain other rations) is accomplished under a modified systems approach. DLA Troop Support awards contracts for delivery of the end item, i.e., completely assembled cases of MRE rations, as well as for a few specialized component items. The contractors receiving these awards from DLA Troop Support are considered "prime contractors." The prime contractors issue their own contracts (subcontracts) to procure the additional items they need to assemble the complete MRE ration. Inspection requirements for food components established in the DLA Troop Support contracts apply to all subcontractors.

DLA Troop Support procures food components for the Unitized Group Ration (UGR) through direct contracts between DLA Troop Support and the individual companies producing the component items. Currently, DOD facilities assemble the UGR food components, some of which require USDA/AMS inspection, into a final meal module.

See Attachment B for current DLA Troop Support contact information.

II. RATION TYPES

A. Individual Rations

Individual rations, including the MRE, First Strike Ration (FSR), and Meal, Cold Weather (MCW) are meals for use by combat infantry soldiers. These lightweight, flat, and flexibly packaged rations are intended to be consumed by the soldier under combat conditions. The MRE is a ration that offers more convenience over the previous "C" rations and reduced the weight of the basic combat ration by more than 30 percent. MRE retort entrees are placed in a Single Serving Pouch (SSP) and heat processed, or thermostabilized. They require a shorter cook cycle in the retort cook process than traditional cans; thus allowing for improved food quality for the ration items.

The components of an MRE meal bag typically include a meat, poultry, or other entree; a fruit, vegetable, or grain side item; a snack and/or dessert; hot and cold beverages; a flameless ration heater; and an accessory packet. All of the component items are placed into a flexible meal bag, sized to fit into a soldier's uniform pocket. The MRE program currently supports 24 different menus.

Each MRE meal weighs about 1.2 pounds and provides one-third of a soldier's daily food allowance. An average MRE contains approximately 1,200 calories. This ration stands out from normal, commercially produced products because it is required to meet the specific needs of the warfighter as established by the U.S. Army Surgeon General, including nutritional requirements. Another unique aspect is the specialized packaging that helps to ensure a three-year shelf life.

B. Group Rations

The Unitized Group Ration (UGR) is used to sustain military personnel during operations that allow organized food service facilities, i.e., when mobile food preparation equipment is available. Components for this ration are often packaged in larger flexible pouches, polymeric trays, or metal cans, and contain approximately 9 to 18 servings per package. The UGR is designed to maximize the use of commercial items and to simplify the process of providing high quality food service in a field environment. USDA, AMS inspection of this ration usually occurs at origin (i.e., facilities processing food items into primary containers), and includes entrée, side, and dessert items, retorted and packaged in polymeric trays or institutional-sized pouches (ISP); bakery items packaged in polymeric trays or large, flexible pouches; and dehydrated products packaged in metal cans or ISPs.

There are currently three UGR programs that require AMS inspection of a portion of their components. These are the UGR-Heat and Serve (UGR-HS), which is centered around entrees and side dishes in polymeric trays, the UGR-Express (UGR-E), which includes polymeric trays and a self-heating capability, and the UGR-B, which includes dehydrated entrees and side dishes in metal cans.

III. UNIQUE RATION PACKAGING

The flexible packaging used for the primary packaging (pouch) of many Operational Rations component items is also used for the lid of the polymeric tray and for some ISP containers. This packaging plays a key role in the Operational Rations program. It consists of multiple layers of various materials laminated together to produce a barrier layer between the food item and the outside environment. A development in pouch material and design has resulted in a directional tear pouch, which allows soldiers to tear the pouch along the length of the pouch and more easily consume the product. Most of the MRE retorted entrée item pouches are placed into a cardboard carton for an added level of protection.

The Polymeric Tray (Poly Tray) is made of Polypropylene (resin) combined with Ethylene Vinyl Alcohol (EVOH), a barrier layer to help maintain the quality of the food contained within. The tray is protected from damage during shipping with a fiberboard sleeve. A paperboard baking insert is included to accommodate the packaging of bakery items.

Due to the importance placed on the availability and performance of the military rations when needed during periods of combat, the contract requirements for the integrity of the primary ration packaging are quite strenuous. For example, the MRE entrée pouches are inspected with zero tolerance for critical defects (holes, abrasions, serious delamination, etc).

IV. GENERAL OPERATIONAL RATIONS CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The requirements that establish OR inspection activities are found in a collection of documents. These documents may include the DLA Troop Support solicitation (including subsequent amendments to the solicitation), the contract (including subsequent modifications to the contract), delivery orders, associated product specifications, and referenced requirements. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to provide copies of these documents to the PPD inspectors. DCIS also receives copies of some of the documents from DLA Troop Support, and can provide these to inspectors as needed. The DLA Troop Support website is a source for many of the documents used in the Operational Rations Program.

SECTION III – INSPECTION GUIDELINES

I. GENERAL

This section contains general guidelines on Operational Rations inspection. The specific inspection procedures, worksheets, and forms are maintained by DCIS on the PPD Lotus Notes Server in designated databases.

In addition, PPD general inspection procedures and guidelines apply to the inspection of OR food components. The PPD inspector should follow general PPD instructions, unless they are superseded by specific Operational Rations Inspection instructions or DLA Troop Support contract requirements.

PPD inspectors perform examinations of OR food components for conformance with the quality standards identified in a contract. These examinations may include end item inspections, packaging examinations, unit load inspections, and sampling and submittal to USDA/AMS laboratories for chemical and/or microbiological analyses (e.g., percent protein, percent salt, or presence of salmonella, etc.). In-plant Operational Rations inspections also include verification that a contractor is operating according to the contract requirements, which may include the contractor's adherence to their own quality system plan (QSP) as well as current Federal regulations.

II. BILLING AND CONTRACTS

PPD will charge contractors for inspection at the appropriate uniform hourly rate established by the Division for the type of inspection service. Inspection of Operational Rations products are billed according to information posted at the following internet address: http://www.ams.usda.gov/ProcessedFVInspectionFees.

The procedures for establishing inspection contracts or services with OR applicants are the same as for other users of PPD's contract services. An OR in-plant contract is often designated as a Pack Certification, Operational Rations Contract. In some cases, inspection of OR products will be limited to lot inspection.

III. SAMPLING

Sampling and acceptance criteria for the inspection of OR food components are based on Inspection Levels, Acceptable Quality Levels (AQLs), and Acceptance Numbers in ANSI/ASQ Z1.4, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes, when the appropriate references are contained in the contract, purchase order, commodity specification, or other contract documentation. In the absence of such references, PPD sampling procedures apply.

IV. CERTIFICATION

OR components are procured as either Contractor Furnished Material (CFM) or Government Furnished Material (GFM). CFM is material produced by subcontractors who supply the components to a prime contractor who has a contract with DLA Troop Support for delivery of complete "assembled" meals. CFM items are certified by PPD on official USDA Certificates (FV-66 or FV-146). If inspection services are being provided or shared with another agency, for example, the State of South Carolina and AMS Poultry Programs, the CFM items may be certified using the other agency's certificate. GFM products are food components produced by a contractor with a direct contract with DLA Troop Support for the specific component. GFM items are certified on a DD Form 250 (Material Inspection and Receiving Report), which is an electronic form available in DLA Troop Support's web-based Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) system.

V. IN-PLANT INSPECTIONS

A. Plant Surveys

Plant surveys should be conducted on an annual basis for all OR facilities with in-plant inspection. Any variance from this should be coordinated by DCIS, with involvement by the PPD Officer-in-Charge overseeing inspection at the facility.

B. Sanitation

The USDA/AMS inspector will perform daily sanitation inspections and report the results to plant management. If PPD is providing inspection, inspectors will handle sanitation deficiencies in accordance with the AIM Inspection Series Sanitation and Safety Manual. Inspectors will use FV-416-9, "Sanitation Score Sheet for Operational Ration Processing Plants," (which may be found in the AMS Forms catalog at the following intranet address: http://agnis/AMSFormsCatalog/Forms/AllItems.aspx) for documentation. If another AMS program or other government inspection service is providing inspection, sanitation deficiencies shall be handled in accordance with that program's sanitation procedures. These procedures must provide a comparable level of assurance that GMPs and acceptable facility sanitation is maintained as do PPD procedures.

Additional sanitation requirements may be identified in the DLA Troop Support contract documents. These requirements often include an integrated pest management system and a pheromone surveillance program.

C. OR In-Plant Inspection Review Program

In order to provide and maintain uniform and accurate OR inspection services, DCIS has developed the Operational Rations In-Plant Inspection Review Program. The program includes reviews of Operational Rations inspection activities conducted at the following three levels: DCIS, Supervisory, and Inspector (Self-Inspection). The reviews are documented using the Operational Rations In-Plant Inspection Review Report and the Operational Rations Supervisory Report. See Section 12 of the OR Inspection Handbook, located on the PPD Lotus Notes server, for further information.

D. Supervisory Review

Supervisory reviews and oversight of OR inspection activities should be conducted in accordance with current PPD procedures. Site visits by USDA/AMS supervisors have been incorporated into the OR In-Plant Inspection Review Program procedures, and a special supervisory report for documenting supervisory visits to OR facilities has been developed. See Section 12 of the OR Inspection Handbook located on the PPD Lotus Notes server for further information.

E. Regulatory Requirements

Operational Rations inspection requires PPD to perform in-plant inspection of products that fall under USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations as well as products that fall under U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations. For meat, poultry, and egg products, FSIS is responsible for assuring wholesomeness of the animal origin products, sanitation and plant compliance with Federal Regulations. It is vital that the PPD inspection staff maintain a good working relationship with the resident and visiting FSIS inspectors. This should include the communication of any issues related to critical sanitation concerns, inadequate thermal processing, or incorrect labeling.

PPD inspection personnel should follow PPD procedures with respect to handling FDA-regulated products, including adherence with the USDA/AMS - FDA Memorandum of Understanding concerning the inspection and grading of food products (which may be found at the following internet address: http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/PartnershipsCollaborations/MemorandaofUnderstandingMOUs/DomesticMOUs/default.htm).

F. Other Inspection Requirements

PPD Operational Rations inspection will sometimes take place in a facility that falls under another AMS Program or a different agency. In these cases, the

facility must meet the requirements of that program or agency before PPD can consider beginning OR inspection activities.

For example, PPD may have OR in-plant inspection activity in a facility that produces dairy products for the Operational Rations program. Such a facility must meet the requirements of AMS, Dairy Programs for in-plant inspection, including passing a Dairy Programs plant survey before PPD can perform OR inspections.

Another example is inspection activity that has occurred in American Samoa at a tuna processing facility. This commodity falls under the grading oversight of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and U.S. FDA regulatory oversight. OR inspection is performed jointly by both PPD and NMFS inspectors, with the understanding that the NMFS in-plant inspection requirements as well as PPD OR inspection requirements apply to the activity.

G. Operational Rations Database

PPD maintains the Operational Rations Database (ORDB) for the collection of inspection results from each facility with in-plant inspection. The USDA/AMS inspector is responsible for entering data into the ORDB on a regular basis. Support for the ORDB is provided by DCIS and PPD's Information Management Services (IMS) Section staff. When requested, DCIS provides data collected from the ORDB to DLA Troop Support for the purpose of establishing a contractor's quality history. The USDA/AMS inspector may also use the ORDB to provide a contractor with a report of the contractor's inspection results.

VI. OTHER INSPECTIONS FOR DOD

While it is understood that for most Operational Rations inspections performed at the request of DOD, PPD inspectors are stationed in-plant, occasionally DOD allows for special inspections of OR products using a combination of PPD's services, including lot inspection. DCIS will coordinate these special inspections with the Regional and Area Offices as they occur.

Attachment A

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

and the

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

and

FEDERAL GRAIN INSPECTION SERVICE

relative to

The Inspection, Certification, and Acceptance

of Subsistence Products

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Economy Act of June 30, 1932, as amended (31 USC 686), the Department of Defense is authorized to place orders with any other Department for service of any kind which such Department may be in a position to supply, and the Defense Acquisition Regulation (Section 14-502), Defense Logistics Agency Regulation (DLAR) 4155.26, permit the utilization of inspection services of other government agencies; and WHEREAS, the Director, Defense Logistics Agency, is desirous of utilizing services of the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Federal Grain Inspection Service to inspect and certify, as to compliance with requirements, for various subsistence products purchased by the Defense Logistics Agency. Therefore, the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is for the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Federal Grain Inspection Service to assume the responsibility for the origin quality assurance inspection of these subsistence products for the Department of Defense which

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are purchased, stored, and distributed by the Defense Logistics Agency, and to assure the inspection results are in accordance with the appropriate published standards and Defense Logistics Agency contract requirements.

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Federal Grain Inspection Service are authorized by Section 203 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 USC 1621, et seq.), and regulations promulgated thereunder, to perform inspection services for other Federal Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch Plan for a Government-Wide Food Quality Assurance Program for Food Procured by Federal Agencies, approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), recommended the inspection services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture be used by the Defense Logistics Agency. NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed by and between the Director, Defense Logistics Agency, hereinafter referred to as DLA, the Agricultural Marketing Service, hereinafter referred to as AMS and the Federal Grain Inspection Service, hereinafter referred to as FGIS, as follows:

Article 1

a. Purpose and Scope. To assure that subsistence items tendered to the Defense Personnel Support Center, hereinafter referred to as DPSC, under contract conform to contract requirements, inspection will be performed by AMS/FGIS as requested by DPSC as provided herein. For purposes of this agreement, DPSC will act on behalf of DLA as the implementing component.

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b. Definitions.

1. Inspection. The examination and testing of supplies and services (including when appropriate, raw materials, components, and assemblies) to determine whether subsistence intended for DPSC purchase conforms to the contract requirements. In the event the contract, contract solicitation or specification document does not stipulate to the degree of inspection required, or the USDA Agency has difficulty interpreting the document, the Agency will coordinate with DPSC to determine an interpretation or degree of inspection mutually acceptable to both activities. DPSC shall confirm the degree of inspection or interpretation in writing to the Agency. Inspection will be made during reasonable business hours after notice to the contractor.

2. Examination. An element of inspection consisting of investigation of supplies and services to determine conformance to contract requirements without the use of special laboratory appliances or procedures. Examination is not limited to visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, tasting or gustatory, and other similar type investigations. In addition, physical manipulation, gauging, and measurement may be performed.

3. Testing. An element of inspection consisting of determining, by technical means and established scientific principles and procedures, the physical, biological, or chemical properties of materials, supplies, or components thereof.

4. Contract. In accordance with the Defense Acquisition Regulation, a "contract means all types of agreements and orders for the obtaining of supplies or services. It includes awards and notices of award, contracts of a fixed price, cost, cost-plus-a-fixed-fee, or

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incentive type, contracts providing for the issuance of job orders, task orders, or task letters thereunder, letter contract and purchasing orders." It also includes supplemental agreements with respect to any of the foregoing.

Article II. Request for Inspection

a. When inspection services are requested by DPSC.

1. When inspection services of AMS/FGIS are required, DPSC or its field activities will request the inspection from the appropriate AMS/FGIS office.

2. Each written request will be supported by a copy of the contract. Any necessary supplemental inspection or technical requirements will be attached.

3. All oral requests for inspection service will be subsequently confirmed in writing by the DPSC Contract Quality Assurance Element acting on behalf of the Procuring Contracting Officer who requested the inspection. Upon request by DPSC, AMS/FGIS will, as resources permit, provide technical assistance. This may include, but not necessarily be limited to, pre-award survey of food plant facilities, food serviceability evaluation, special collaborative testing with other government and commercial laboratories, critique of specifications and other procurement technical data.

b. When inspection services are requested by the contractor.

1. When inspection service is required in accordance with the terms of the contract, the contractor will request inspection from the appropriate AMS/FGIS office.

2. DPSC will furnish AMS/FGIS with a copy of the contract, solicitation, and all inspection requirements relating to the contract directly and/or through the contractor when

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urgencies of supply schedules require use of contractor's copy. DPSC will provide verification of all contract information as requested by AMS/FGIS.

3. The contract and associated documents including referenced USDA approved specifications or military essential documents will be the official sanction of DPSC for the specific item(s) requirements, and inspection service required.

c. Payment for Inspection Services. When specified in the contract, the contractor shall employ the services of the AMS/FGIS to inspect and certify as to the conformance of subsistence products with the contractual requirements. The contractor shall bear all expenses incident to such inspection including costs of samples and testing. These costs shall be as defined in instructions and regulations of the servicing agency unless the contract reinspection clause is exercised or the service or testing is performed by other than USDA, in which case the payment rates will be as defined in the contract. In addition, DPSC will reimburse AMS/FGIS for direct inspection costs not related to vendor paid inspection.

Article III. Inspection Procedures.

a. DPSC will reference in its contracts those AMS/FGIS inspection procedures established for similar commercial products which adequately suit the purpose of procurement for the Armed Forces and will cooperate with AMS/FGIS to adopt established AMS/FGIS procedures in a form adequate for such purposes.

b. Inspection shall be accomplished for such factors and according to the manner provided in the contract and supporting documents. DPSC contracts will usually express manner of service required in clauses E44, E64, and E71.

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c. Inspection for grade, when the contract references a USDA Grade Standard or a Federal Specification which is based on a USDA Grade Standard, shall be accomplished according to established AMS/FGIS procedures.

d. Inspection shall be accomplished in a manner which will best fulfill the purpose in the judgment of AMS/FGIS when the manner is not provided in the contract.

e. Administration and reporting procedures shall be mutually agreed upon by DPSC and the respective USDA activity.

Article IV. Inspection Certificates.

a. USDA Certificates. Upon determination that the item to be purchased by DPSC meets the requirements of the purchase instrument, AMS/FGIS will execute and distribute the official AMS/FGIS inspection certificate, as applicable, or other form(s) mutually agreed upon by AMS/FGIS and DPSC for use for the item(s) involved, as required by the contract. All such documents will include positive identification of the actual material inspected and date of inspection.

b. Certificate of Conformance. AMS/FGIS will require the contractor to furnish Certificates of Conformance (CoCs) when these are required by the terms of the contract. The acceptance of CoCs will be based on a review (and/or inspection) by AMS/FGIS of the subsistence items for such determination as may be made visually, and the supporting document, i.e., receipts, tickets, labels, etc. Distribution of the CoCs shall be made in accordance with the contract. When required, verification testing of packaging, packing and marking materials, and of subsistence products having test requirements, will be performed in accordance with procedures cited in the contract and Article V.

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Article V. Laboratory Facilities, Equipment, and Testing.

a. All testing of packaging, packing and marking materials, and nonfood components, when performed by the Government, will be accomplished by the Defense Clothing and Textiles (C&T) Testing Laboratory, DPSC-TTL, or other laboratories mutually acceptable to DPSC and AMS/FGIS.

b. All other tests to be performed by the Government on contracts assigned to AMS/FGIS for determining compliance with the requirements of the contract will be accomplished at laboratory facilities of or approved by AMS/FGIS. At the request of the USDA Agency, the contractor shall furnish all inspection gauges, instruments, scales, tools, or other material required to complete the necessary inspection. AMS/FGIS will ensure that the contractor has had such gauges, instruments, scales, tools, etc., properly calibrated and, if necessary, certified. When the collection of insects is required, the contractor shall be responsible for supplying and installing specified light traps required to accomplish this task. Insect specimens shall be collected from plant production and storage areas and submitted by the USDA personnel to the nearest military entomological laboratory for identification. The identifications made by the military laboratory shall be reported to the requestor, DPSC, and to USDA authorities.

c. AMS/FGIS will at the time of inspection select government verification testing samples and complete DD Form 1222, Request for and Results of Tests, which will accompany these samples to the laboratory. The DD Form 1222 is not applicable to government acceptance testing.

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d. The testing laboratory(ies) will furnish DPSC a copy of the completed DD Form 1222 including all test results and any additional test data pertaining to the sample of product tested.

Article VI. Acceptance of Supplies.

When requested by DPSC, AMS/FGIS personnel performing quality assurance inspection on contracts, which require government inspection and acceptance at origin, will accept conforming subsistence supplies for DPSC. Acceptance shall be effected by execution of an acceptance certificate on the applicable inspection and receiving report (DD Form 250 or other report specified in the contract) when such supplies are found to fully meet all quality assurance requirements of the contract, including material accepted by the contracting officer through the waiver/contract modification process. When the contractor inspection/government verification program is in effect and the government verification results are not available at the scheduled shipping time, the AMS/FGIS personnel may annotate the DD Form 250 with a statement such as: "Material accepted in accordance with contract clause E44, E64, or E71, as applicable."

Article VII. AMS/FGIS Charges Reimbursed by DPSC.

a. Charges by AMS/FGIS that are to be paid by DPSC for service performed hereunder and not chargeable to the contractor will be made to defray the total costs of inspection and grading services rendered, including both direct and indirect costs. These costs will not exceed those charges for similar services regularly billed by AMS/FGIS to other government agencies. AMS/FGIS will notify DPSC of any increase in charges to DPSC as soon as practical before the effective date of such increase. If contractor uses contractor testing option as set forth in clause E71, or furnishes CoC in accordance with clause E64, and his test system or certification

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procedure is considered reliable, and government verification test results are not available at time of shipment, but product has otherwise been determined to conform to contract requirements, cognizant AMS/FGIS personnel will sign DD Form 250 (or accomplish appropriate certification) with annotation that material was accepted or certified, in part, based on clause E71 or E64 provisions.

b. AMS/FGIS bills will itemize contract number, certificate number, inspection fee, expenses incurred, and other such charges as are deemed proper and reasonable. The billing forms annotated with or cross referencing the items listed above will be forwarded to DPSC-STQ or Defense Subsistence Region, Pacific, as applicable, as soon as possible after the inspection service is completed, but not later than the close of the month following the month the service was performed. Follow-up requests will identify the original bill by date and number.

c. No charges shall be made by AMS/FGIS for sanitary inspection, and other functions which are performed pursuant to Federal Statutes and funded by appropriated funds.

Article VIII. Observational Visits.

Authorized personnel of DPSC will conduct observational visits to plants where AMS/FGIS personnel are performing inspection for DLA/DPSC contractors. All observational visits will be coordinated with the AMS Regional Supervisor or the FGIS Area Program Chief. DPSC personnel will not interfere with, interrupt, or impede the AMS/FGIS personnel in the performance of inspection activities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the DPSC observer will be allowed to review the Grader's/Inspector's inspection records, certificates, or other inspection papers pertaining to DLA/DPSC contracts on which the contractor is performing.

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DPSC visitors will record comments made by the contractor concerning the inspection activity or performance, but will not render judgment thereto in discussions with the contractor. If inspection deficiencies are noted by DPSC personnel, they will be reported verbally and/or in writing to supervisory personnel designated by AMS/FGIS.

Article IX. Reporting of Questionable Activities.

a. All AMS/FGIS personnel connected with any inspection of material as provided for under this agreement will promptly report to their appropriate official(s) any evidence of suspected criminal conduct, including fraud, bribery, and conversion of government-owned property, and nonconformance from contract requirements which, in the opinion of the Grader/Inspector, constitute a violation of the Food and Drug Administration standards or requirements. The AMS/FGIS will, in turn, notify HQ DPSC (DPSC-STQ), as appropriate.

b. The AMS/FGIS will notify HG DPSC, ATTN: DPSC-ST, in writing, immediately when its inspection service has been suspended, withdrawn, or denied to any processor, packer, or manufacturer of food items. DPSC-ST will notify AMS/FGIS, in writing, immediately when a food supplier or potential supplier has been placed on the list of suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible suppliers.

Article X. Administration of Nonperishable Subsistence Contracts. Subsistence contracts for nonperishable items will be assigned to the cognizant Defense Contract Administration Services (DCAS) component for administration of functions specified on the contract transfer document.

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Article XI. Effective Date, Modification, Termination, and Recision.

a. This agreement shall become effective upon approval by all parties.

b. This agreement does not obligate AMS/FGIS to accept an application for inspection services which would otherwise be rejected in accordance with applicable USDA regulations or when the plant does not meet minimum sanitary standards required by USDA.

c. Any changes to this agreement shall be in writing and will be signed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

d. This agreement may be terminated by any party upon the giving of 180 days written notice to the other parties.

Article XII. Previous Agreement. Any agreement or portion of such agreement heretofore entered into between parties hereunder which is inconsistent with the provisions of the foregoing is hereby rescinded.

APPROVED:

Date: 6 Jan 84	Benjamin F. Register J, MG USA Deputy Director, Defense Logistics Agency
Date: 2/13/84	Vern Highley Administrator Agricultural Marketing Service U.S. Department of Agriculture
Date: 30 Jan 1984	Kenneth A. Gillis Administrator Federal Grain Inspection Service U.S. Department of Agriculture

DLA Troop Contact Information — Attachment B

	Phone	Email
Operational Rations		
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Attachment C

OR Inspection Handbook (Lotus Notes)

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