

Effective January 4, 2009, the fee for USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) inspection of operational rations food components will be \$68.00 per hour.

This inspection fee applies to Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Supply Center Philadelphia contracts requiring contractor-paid USDA/AMS inspection of operational rations food components.

USDA/AMS charges the operational rations inspection fee for all applicable USDA/AMS inspection of formulated and processed food components in DoD operational rations. Operational rations include, but are not limited to, Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) rations; Unitized Group Rations (including Polymeric Tray, Metal Tray Pack, and Institutional Size Pouch containers); First Strike rations; Long Range Patrol (LRP) rations; and Meal, Cold Weather (MCW) rations.

The fee applies to all types of services provided under in-plant, year-round inspection service contracts; in-plant, less than year-round inspection service contracts; and lot inspection or similar services.

In addition, inspection services provided under the following conditions shall be charged as follows:

- * Holiday Pay Under Contract: An eight hour charge at the hourly rate shall be made for each inspector assigned. When work is performed, an additional hour at the hourly rate shall be charged for each hour worked.
- * Holiday Work Under Lot Inspection: Two hours shall be charged for each hour worked.
- * Night Differential: Inspection services provided between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. shall be charged at the hourly rate plus 10 percent for each inspection hour.
- * Sunday Differential: Inspection services provided on Sunday shall be charged at the hourly rate plus 25 percent for each inspection hour.
- * Overtime: All overtime hours shall be charged at the hourly rate plus one-half the hourly rate per hour.
- * Travel Time: The hourly rate shall be charged for each hour of travel time incurred in connection with the performance of inspection services.

If inspection services are requested outside the Continental United States (i.e., outside the contiguous 48 states and District of Columbia), travel costs of inspectors and supervisors will be charged in addition to the hourly fee. These travel costs may include expenditures for transportation and per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses).

The implementation of the operational rations inspection fee is in accordance with Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 52.51, as amended.

The operational rations inspection fee does not apply to USDA grading and certification of those ingredients requiring grading prior to operational rations component formulation and processing. This grading and certification is performed by the appropriate AMS program or Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration division at that program or division's fee.

Please note that the operational rations inspection fee does not include charges for AMS laboratory analyses. A current listing of laboratory fees can be obtained from the Laboratory Director or Quality Manager, Agricultural Marketing Service, Field Laboratory Services, 801 Summit Crossing Place Suite B, Gastonia, North Carolina 28054, telephone (704) 867-3873, fax (704) 853-2800. A list of laboratory services, and additional information, is available on the internet at www.ams.usda.gov/science.

Questions regarding the operational rations inspection fee and operational rations inspection related services should be directed to the nearest AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Processed Products Branch office, or to Chief, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0247, telephone (202) 720-4693, fax (202) 690-1527.