1. **PURPOSE:** This DLA Instruction assigns responsibilities within DLA to be followed for inspection of subsistence supplies and services and provide direction on DLA food safety, food defense and quality assurance programs.

2. **APPLICABILITY:** This DLA Instruction is applicable to Headquarters (HQ) DLA; Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), Subsistence Supply Chain, and Defense Depots (DD).

3. **POLICY:**
   
   a. It is DLA policy that the military veterinary/medical food inspection personnel will be utilized to perform receipt, in-storage, and prior to shipment inspections, of all subsistence items received, stored or shipped at depots, supply points, posts, camps, stations, and bases.

   b. Military inspection in contractor facilities will normally be limited to in-plant contract quality assurance (CQA) actions in overseas locations and operational ration assembly.

   c. In the event of a general mobilization or at the request of the contracting officer, military veterinary/medical food inspection personnel may be utilized in contractor facilities located in the United States.

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** Refer to Enclosure 2.

5. **PROCEDURES:** Procedures are illustrated by the narrative in the “Responsibilities” section and by the flowchart at Enclosure 3.

6. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 24, 2003

   Director, DLA Enterprise Support
Enclosure 1
References


1. HQ DLA Veterinary Advisor, Technical and Quality Assurance, J-3314 will manage DLA food safety, food defense and quality assurance policy, maintain, publish, and update this process and will:

   (a) Provide policy guidance and exercise staff supervision for the quality assurance of subsistence material and services managed by DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain).

   (b) Be the point of contact for DLA-procured/-managed subsistence items with the Services, other Government agencies and industry, on subsistence inspection policies.

   (c) Administer the application of policy, programs, and procedures related to the inspection of DLA-managed subsistence items received, stored, maintained, or issued at worldwide wholesale subsistence, storage, and issue facilities.

   (d) Monitor the application of inspection procedures for DLA-managed subsistence in worldwide facilities.

2. The Director, Contract Technical Operations (DCMA-OB), will provide policy guidance and exercise staff supervision for CQA actions performed by Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) elements on DSCP-issued subsistence contracts assigned for source inspection.

3. The Commander, DSCP will:

   (a) Ensure the quality of DLA-managed subsistence supplies and services meets the requirements of DLA customers through efforts including but not limited to:

       (1) Establishment of contractor responsibilities for inspection.

       (2) Selection of appropriate contract quality requirements based on item application and complexity.

       (3) Development of acquisition and storage data packages and review of technical data packages.

       (4) Establishment of CQA procedures, as appropriate, for military veterinary/medical food inspection personnel and coordinate with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Department of Commerce (USDC) to ensure that all USDA and USDC-originated CQA procedures are compatible with DLA and DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain) policy.
(b) Coordinate standards, technical programs, and procedures relating to sanitation, quality, and wholesomeness of subsistence supplies and services with the Surgeons General of the Military Services.

(c) Arrange for the necessary pre-award survey and sanitary inspection by DCMA, USDA, USDC, and U.S. Army Veterinary food inspection personnel, as appropriate.

(d) Arrange for the necessary U.S. Army Veterinary inspection support at Defense Distribution Center (DDC) facilities.

(e) Arrange for effective and economical utilization of available subsistence inspection resources through inspection assignments which are the most advantageous to the Government.

(f) Develop a continuing program to evaluate the adequacy of technical requirements, product conformance to contract requirements, and the effectiveness of technical direction in conjunction, where necessary, with the activity responsible for coordinating technical requirements (Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC), U.S. Army Soldier System Center). This program will include quality systems management visits to contractor facilities; DLA/DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain) worldwide integrated management of subsistence storage sites and other Government activities; contractor and Government laboratories; and USDA, USDC, and military subsistence inspection sites and policy offices, for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of specified requirements, determining conformance of product to specified requirements, and providing technical support/assistance.

(g) Develop and administer a continuing program to ensure the reliability of contractor testing systems.

(h) Develop and administer in-storage quality control and inspection programs to ensure the serviceability of stored subsistence.

(i) Designate the senior veterinary officer assigned to the Subsistence Directorate, DSCP, to act as the principal point of contact on wholesomeness matters, and as liaison between DSCP and the Surgeons General of the Military Services.

(j) Designate the Director, Product Services, DSCP, DSCP-E, and DSCP-PAC, as the principal point of contact on subsistence wholesomeness, quality, and suitability for intended use matters with:

1. The Military Veterinary/Medical Services Representatives of the installations serviced.

2. The regional offices of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

3. The inspector in charge of the servicing USDA establishments.

4. The DCMA administering DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain)-assigned contracts.
(5) The U.S. Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM), overseas U.S. Army (USA) Major Command(s) and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Major Command(s) in the area serviced by DSCP, DSCP-Europe Region, or DSCP-Pacific Region (PAC) Subsistence Supply Chains. However, principal point of contact for all operational rations matters including sanitation and integrated pest management, except wholesomeness, falls under the DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain) Operational Rations Commodity Business Unit, Quality/Technical Program Manager.

(k) Develop procedures facilitating direct communication between DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain) and the Commander, VETCOM, overseas USA Major Command(s), and each USAF Major Command on subsistence inspection matters.

(l) Establish continuing liaison among DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain); NSRDEC, U.S. Army Soldier System Center; Defense Commissary Agency; Air Force Engineering and Services Center; Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DA DCSLOG)/Army Center of Excellence Subsistence (ACES); U.S. Navy Food Service Systems Office; HQ U.S. Marine Corps; and DCMA on matters related to subsistence inspection support, nonconforming subsistence materials, quality complaints, and inspection system improvements.

(m) Devise a reporting system which is designed to advise Federal regulatory agencies of the rejection of centrally procured subsistence.

(n) Operate a notification system in accordance with DLAR 4155.26/AR 40-660/NAVSUPINST 10110.8C/AFR 161-42/MCO 10110.38C, DoD Hazardous Food and Nonprescription Drug Recall System, (http://www.dla.mil/dlaps/dlar/r4155.26.pdf) for hazardous food alerts and recalls received from FDA, USDA, USDC, or other agencies which may involve the Military Services.

(o) Process, investigate, resolve, and respond to SF Form 364, Report of Discrepancy (ROD), for nonconformances under the Subsistence Prime Vendor Program and for other relative nonconformances for subsistence and related items of supply.

(p) Develop commodity-oriented training courses for the purpose of technically qualifying USDA/USDC/Military inspectors, when requested.

(q) Render quality assurance support for first article inspection, product demonstration models, and production testing contracts.

(r) Provide quality assurance letters of instruction (QALIs), as appropriate, to the assigned quality assurance activity.

(s) Coordinate known or anticipated additional inspection requirements with the USDA, USDC, or Military Services, as appropriate.

(t) Comply with ISO 10012-1 or ANSI/NCLS Z540-1 for calibration of measuring and test equipment.
(u) Execute Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and other agreements for inspection service support, where necessary.

(v) Designate, DSCP, Operational Rations Commodity Business Unit (CBU), Quality/Technical Program Manager. The Quality/Technical Program Manager assigned to Subsistence Directorate, Operational Rations CBU, acts as the principal point of contact and as the liaison between DSCP (Subsistence Supply Chain) and supporting elements (including the Military Services) for all operational rations matters including sanitation and integrated pest management, except wholesomeness.

4. The Commanders of DDs will:

   (a) Arrange for the necessary U.S. Army Veterinary personnel inspection support of DLA-managed semi-perishable subsistence items received, stored, and issued.

   (b) Program for the necessary resources in terms of qualified personnel, equipment, and facilities to perform the necessary quality and reliability assurance function.

5. The Commander, DCMA will ensure that subsistence contracts, assigned to DCMA elements for CQA actions at source, are administered efficiently and effectively in accordance with DCMA procedures, contract requirements, and QALIs.

6. The Military Services are jointly responsible for:

   (a) Establishing technical requirements and acceptance criteria to identify the quality level of subsistence acceptable for Service use.

   (b) Providing a competent, technically qualified inspection service within their assigned areas of responsibility.

   (c) Positioning military veterinary/medical food inspection personnel in a manner to support the DLA procurement, storage, distribution, and issue programs.

   (d) Providing military veterinary/medical food inspection personnel to determine acceptability of subsistence supplies as to condition, quality, and wholesomeness. Naval/Marine Corps activities, which do not have assigned military veterinary personnel will provide technically qualified personnel for this function.

   (e) Determining requirements for an adequate inspection workload for training and mobilization of military veterinary/medical food inspection personnel, and to provide a base for rotation of personnel between the Continental United States (CONUS) and overseas assignments.

   (f) Notifying DSCP of suspected hazardous foods that are maintained in a Service property account in accordance with DLAD 4155.26.
7. The Surgeons General of the Military Departments are jointly responsible for:

   (a) Establishing acceptance criteria, technical requirements, and inspection procedures needed to ensure foods are wholesome and suitable for intended use. Wholesomeness assurance measures will include but not be limited to:

       (1) Evaluation of wholesomeness from a microbiological, toxicological, and radiological viewpoint.

       (2) Inspection of sources for sanitation including sources of component items when required in accordance with Army Regulation 40-657/NAVSUP 4355.4H/MCO P10110.31H, Veterinary/Medical Food Safety, Quality Assurance, and Laboratory Service (http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r40_657.pdf),

       (3) Approval of manufacturing processes to ensure that technical procedures required to ensure wholesomeness, quality, and suitability for intended use are incorporated and used.

       (4) The use of test and examination techniques during processing or for the finished item to detect unsanitary practices or unwholesomeness of food.

       (5) Providing training programs, facilities, and funds for military veterinary/medical personnel that are responsive to the continuing development of the subsistence inspection systems.

       (6) Appointing individuals to represent the respective medical departments to pass on acceptance/rejection of subsistence with questionable wholesomeness.

       (7) Appointing individuals, when requested, to represent the respective medical departments to participate in the development of sanitary standards and wholesomeness criteria for subsistence items.

       (8) Developing a reporting system which will continually advise Federal and State regulatory agencies of the rejection of locally procured subsistence.

8. The Commander VETCOM will: provide policy guidance and exercise staff supervision for CQA actions performed by VETCOM elements on DSCP–issued subsistence contracts for operational rations assembly or outside the continental United States (OCONUS), when designated in the contract.
Enclosure 3
Procedures

Veterinary Affairs

START

Manage DLA
Food Safety, Food
Defense and
Quality Assurance
Policy

Assign Contract
Technical Operations
Responsibilities

Assign DSCP
(Subsistence Supply
Chain) Responsibilities

Monitor DCMA
Performance

Assign DD
Responsibilities

Monitor Military
Services

Monitor Surgeon
General Information

Support VETCOM

STOP