

SECTION C

This document covers tortillas packaged in a flexible pouch for use by the Department of Defense as a component of operational rations.

C-1 ITEM DESCRIPTION

PCR-T-008A, TORTILLAS, PACKAGED IN A FLEXIBLE POUCH, SHELF STABLE

Flavors.

- Flavor 1 – Plain
- Flavor 2 – Chipotle

Packages.

- Package C – Meal, Ready-to-Eat™ (MRE™)
- Package E – Unitized Group Ration™ (UGR™)-Heat & Serve™ (UGR-H&S™)
- Package I – Unitized Group Ration™-B (UGR-B™)
- Package J – First Strike Ration® (FSR™)

C-2 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. Product standard. A sample shall be subjected to first article (FA) or product demonstration model (PDM) inspection as applicable, in accordance with the tests and inspections of Section E of this Performance-based Contract Requirements (PCR) document. The approved sample shall serve as the product standard. Should the contractor at any time plan to or actually produce the product using different raw material or process methodologies from the approved product standard, which result in a product noncomparable to the product standard, the contractor shall submit a replacement FA or PDM for approval. In any event, all product produced must meet all requirements of this document including product standard comparability.

B. Shelf life. The packaged product shall meet the minimum shelf life requirement of 36 months at 80°F.

C. Appearance.

(1) General. For packages C and J, the finished product shall be two baked intact tortillas prepared from enriched wheat flour. For package E and I, the finished product shall

be 36 baked intact tortillas prepared from enriched wheat flour. The product may have small tan to amber spots (less than one inch) randomly dispersed on the surface. The tortillas shall be thin, round, and easily separable.

(2) Flavor 1. The plain tortillas shall be an off-white color.

(3) Flavor 2. The chipotle tortillas shall be a light to medium tan-orange color and may contain orange to red flavor specs.

D. Odor and flavor.

(1) General. The packaged food shall be free from foreign odors and flavors.

(2) Flavor 1. The plain tortillas shall have a cooked wheat flour, slightly sweet, slightly sour odor and flavor. The tortillas may have a slightly uncooked wheat dough flavor.

(3) Flavor 2. The chipotle tortillas shall have a cooked wheat flour, slightly sweet, slightly sour, slightly smoky, chipotle odor and flavor. The tortilla shall elicit a late sensation of moderate heat. The tortillas may have a slightly uncooked wheat dough flavor.

E. Texture. The tortillas shall be soft, pliable, and slightly chewy.

F. Size. The tortillas shall be not greater than 7.0 inches in diameter.

G. Net weight.

(1) Package C and J. The average net weight shall be not less than 2.1 ounces (60 grams). No individual pouch shall have a net weight of less than 54 grams.

(2) Package E and I. The average net weight shall be not less than 39.5 ounces (1120 grams). No individual pouch shall have a net weight of less than 35.2 ounces (998 grams).

H. Palatability and overall appearance. The finished product shall be equal to or better than the approved product standard in palatability and overall appearance.

I. Analytical requirements.

(1) Moisture. The moisture content shall be not greater than 26.0 percent.

(2) pH. The pH shall be not less than 4.8 and not greater than 5.7.

(3) Water activity. The water activity (a_w) shall be not greater than 0.85 when measured at 77.0°F (25°C).

(4) Oxygen. The oxygen content of the filled and sealed pouch shall not exceed 0.30 percent.

(5) Calories. The calories content for the two tortillas shall not be less than 220.

SECTION D

D-1 PACKAGING

A. Packaging. For package C and J, two tortillas (folded in half) and one oxygen scavenger shall be packaged in a preformed or form-fill-seal barrier pouch as described below. For package E and I, 36 tortillas (packed flat in two stacks of 18 tortillas) and oxygen scavenger(s) shall be packaged in a preformed or form-fill-seal barrier pouch as described below.

(1) Preformed pouches.

a. Pouch material. The preformed pouch shall be fabricated from 0.002 inch thick ionomer or polyethylene film laminated or extrusion coated to 0.00035 inch thick aluminum foil which is then laminated to 0.0005 inch thick polyester. Tolerances for thickness of plastic films shall be plus or minus 20 percent and tolerance for the foil layer shall be plus or minus 10 percent. The material shall show no evidence of delamination, degradation, or foreign odor when heat sealed or fabricated into pouches. The material shall be suitably formulated for food packaging and shall not impart an odor or flavor to the product. The complete exterior surface of the pouch shall be uniformly colored and shall conform to number 20219, 30219, 30227, 30279, 30313, 30324, or 30450 of FED-STD-595, Colors Used in Government Procurement.

b. Pouch construction. The pouch shall be a flat style preformed pouch. Package C and J shall have maximum inside dimensions of 5 inches wide by 7-3/4 inches long. Package E and I shall have maximum inside dimensions of 9-1/2 inches wide by 15-3/4 inches long. The pouch shall be made by heat sealing three edges with 3/8 inch ($\pm 1/8$ inch in any dimension) wide seals. The side and bottom seals shall have an average seal strength of not less than 6 pounds per inch of width and no individual specimen shall have a seal strength of less than 5 pounds per inch of width. Alternatively, the pouch shall exhibit no rupture or seal separation greater than 1/16 inch or seal separation that reduces the effective closure seal to less than 1/16 inch when tested for internal pressure resistance. A tear nick, notch or

serrations shall be provided to facilitate opening of the filled and sealed pouch. A 1/8 inch wide lip may be incorporated at the open end of the pouch.

c. Pouch filling and sealing. For package C and J, two tortillas (folded in half) and one oxygen scavenger shall be inserted into the pouch in a manner so as to avoid contamination of the closure seal area. For package E and I, 36 tortillas (packed flat in two stacks of 18 tortillas) and oxygen scavenger(s) shall be inserted into the pouch in a manner so as to avoid contamination of the closure seal area. For package E and I only, the filled pouch shall be sealed under a vacuum level of 8 to 12 inches of mercury. The closure seal shall be free of foldover wrinkles or entrapped matter that reduces the effective closure seal width to less than 1/16 inch. Seals shall be free of impression or design on the seal surface that would conceal or impair visual detection of seal defects. The average seal strength shall be not less than 6 pounds per inch of width and no individual specimen shall have a seal strength of less than 5 pounds per inch of width. Alternatively, the filled and sealed pouch shall exhibit no rupture or seal separation greater than 1/16 inch or seal separation that reduces the effective closure seal width to less than 1/16 inch when tested for internal pressure resistance.

(2) Horizontal form-fill-seal pouches.

a. Pouch material. The horizontal form-fill-seal pouch shall consist of a formed tray-shaped body with a flat sheet, heat sealable cover or a tray-shaped body with a tray-shaped heat sealable cover. The tray-shaped body and the tray-shaped cover shall be fabricated from a 3-ply flexible laminate barrier material consisting of, from outside to inside, 0.0009 inch thick oriented polypropylene bonded to 0.0007 inch thick aluminum foil with 10 pounds per ream pigmented polyethylene or adhesive and bonding the opposite side of the aluminum foil to 0.003 inch thick ionomer or a blend of not less than 50 percent linear low density polyethylene and polyethylene. The linear low density polyethylene portion of the blend shall be the copolymer of ethylene and octene-1 having a melt index range of 0.8 to 1.2 g/10 minutes in accordance with ASTM D1238, Standard Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer and a density range of 0.918 to 0.922 g/cc in accordance with ASTM D1505, Standard Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density- Gradient Technique. Alternatively, 0.0005 inch thick polyester may be used in place of the oriented polypropylene as the outer ply of the laminate. The flat sheet cover shall be made of the same 3-ply laminate as specified for the tray-shaped body except the aluminum foil thickness may be 0.00035 inch. Tolerances for thickness of plastic films shall be plus or minus 20 percent and tolerance for the foil layer shall be plus or minus 10 percent. The color requirements of the exterior (oriented polypropylene or polyester side) of the laminate shall be as specified in D-1,A(1)a. The material shall show no evidence of delamination, degradation, or foreign odor when heat sealed or fabricated into pouches. The material shall be suitably formulated for food packaging and shall not impart any odor or flavor to the product.

b. Pouch construction. The tray-shaped body and the tray-shaped cover shall be formed by drawing the flexible laminate material into an appropriately shaped cavity. The flat cover shall be in the form of a flat sheet of the barrier material taken from roll stock. For packages C and J, two tortillas (folded in half) and one oxygen scavenger shall be placed into the tray-shaped body of the pouch. For package E and I, 36 tortillas (packed flat in two stacks of 18 tortillas) and oxygen scavenger(s) shall be inserted into the tray-shaped body of the pouch. For package E and I only, the filled pouch body shall be sealed under a vacuum level of 12 to 14 inches of mercury. Pouch closure shall be effected by heat sealing together the cover and body along the entire pouch perimeter. The closure seal width shall be a minimum of 1/8 inch. The closure seal shall have an average seal strength of not less than 6 pounds per inch of width and no individual specimen shall have a seal strength of less than 5 pounds per inch of width. Alternatively, the filled and sealed pouch shall exhibit no rupture or seal separation greater than 1/16 inch or seal separation that reduces the effective closure seal width to less than 1/16 inch when tested for internal pressure resistance. For packages C and J, the maximum outside dimensions of the sealed pouch shall be 6 inches wide by 8-1/4 inches long. For package E and I, the maximum outside dimensions of the sealed pouch shall be 10 inches wide by 16-1/2 inches long. A tear nick, notch or serrations shall be provided on one or more edges of the pouch to facilitate opening of the filled and sealed pouch. The sealed pouch shall not show any evidence of material degradation, aluminum stress cracking, delamination or foreign odor. Heat seals shall be free of entrapped matter that reduces the effective closure seal width to less than 1/16 inch. Seals shall be free of impression or design on the seal surface that would conceal or impair visual detection of seal defects.

(3) Oxygen scavenger. The oxygen scavenger shall be constructed of materials that are safe for direct and indirect food contact, and shall be suitable for use with edible products. The oxygen scavenger shall be in compliance with all applicable FDA regulations.

D-2 LABELING

A. Pouches. Each pouch shall be correctly and legibly labeled. Printing ink shall be permanent black ink or other dark contrasting color which is free of carcinogenic elements. The label shall contain the following information:

- (1) Name and flavor of product (letters not less than 1/8 inch high)
- (2) Ingredients
- (3) Date 1/
- (4) Net weight
- (5) Name and address of packer
- (6) "Nutrition Facts" label in accordance with the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) and all applicable FDA regulations

(7) For Package E and I only:
Optional Heating Instructions:
Tortillas may be heated in the pouch in boiling water for 5-10 minutes.
Yield: Serves 18 portions of 2 tortillas each.

1/ Each pouch shall have the date of pack noted by using a four digit code beginning with the final digit of the current year followed by the three digit Julian day code. For example, 14 February 2014 would be coded as 4045. The Julian day code shall represent the day the product was packaged into the pouch.

D-3 PACKING

A. Packing. Not more than 40 pounds of product shall be packed in a fiberboard shipping box constructed in accordance with style RSC-L of ASTM D5118/D5118M, Standard Practice for Fabrication of Fiberboard Shipping Boxes. The fiberboard shall conform to type CF, class D, variety SW, burst grade 200 or ECT grade 32 of ASTM D4727/D4727M, Standard Specification for Corrugated and Solid Fiberboard Sheet Stock (Container Grade) and Cut Shapes. Each box shall be closed in accordance with ASTM D1974/D1974M, Standard Practice for Methods of Closing, Sealing, and Reinforcing Fiberboard Boxes.

D-5 MARKING

A. Shipping containers. Shipping containers shall be marked in accordance with DLA Troop Support Form 3556, Marking Instructions for Boxes, Sacks, and Unit Loads of Perishable and Semiperishable Subsistence.

SECTION E INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

The following quality assurance criteria, utilizing ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes, are required. Unless otherwise specified, single sampling plans indicated in ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 will be utilized. When required, the manufacturer shall provide the Certificate(s) of Conformance to the appropriate inspection activity. Certificate(s) of Conformance not provided shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

A. Definitions.

(1) Critical defect. A critical defect is a defect that judgment and experience indicate would result in hazardous or unsafe conditions for individuals using, maintaining, or depending on the item; or a defect that judgment and experience indicate is likely to prevent the performance of the major end item, i.e., the consumption of the ration.

(2) Major defect. A major defect is a defect, other than critical, that is likely to result in failure, or to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose.

(3) Minor defect. A minor defect is a defect that is not likely to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose, or is a departure from established standards having little bearing on the effective use or operation of the unit.

B. Classification of inspections. The inspection requirements specified herein are classified as follows:

(1) Product standard inspection. The first article or product demonstration model shall be inspected in accordance with the provisions of this document and evaluated for appearance, odor, flavor and texture. Any failure to conform to the performance requirements or any appearance or palatability failure shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

(2) Periodic review evaluation. The approved first article or product demonstration model shall be used as the product standard for periodic review evaluations. All food components that are inspected by the USDA shall be subject to periodic review sampling and evaluation. The USDA shall select sample units during production of contracts and submit them to the following address for evaluation:

US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command
Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center
RDNS-CFF
15 Kansas Street
Natick, MA 01760-5056

One lot shall be randomly selected during each calendar month of production or as otherwise specified in the contract. For package C and J, three (3) sample units shall be randomly selected from that one production lot. For package E and I, two (2) sample units shall be randomly selected from that one production lot. The sample units shall be shipped to Natick within five (5) working days from the end of the production month from which they are randomly selected and upon completion of all USDA inspection requirements. The sample units will be evaluated for overall quality against the current first article or product demonstration model.

(3) Conformance inspection. Conformance inspection shall include the examinations/tests and methods of inspection cited in this section.

E-5 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (PRODUCT)

A. Product examination. The finished product shall be examined for compliance with the performance requirements specified in Section C of this Performance-based Contract Requirements document utilizing the double sampling plans indicated in ANSI/ASQ Z1.4. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. For package C and J, the sample unit shall be the contents of one pouch. For package E and I, the sample unit shall consist of two tortillas from each pouch obtained as follows: Take each of the 2 stacks of 18 tortillas from each pouch and separate them into approximately equal halves. Take the right side tortilla from each half. The inspection level shall be S-3 and the acceptable quality level (AQL), expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 1.5 for major defects and 4.0 for minor defects. Defects and defect classifications are listed in table I.

TABLE I. Product defects 1/ 2/ 3/

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
101		Package C and J product not two baked intact tortillas. Package E and I product not 36 baked intact tortillas.
102		Oxygen scavenger(s) missing. <u>4/</u>
		<u>Appearance</u>
	201	Product not thin or not round.
	202	Tortillas not easily separable.
	203	Flavor 1 tortillas not an off-white color.
	204	Flavor 2 tortillas not a light to medium tan-orange color.
		<u>Odor and flavor</u>
103		Flavor 1 plain tortillas do not have a cooked wheat flour, slightly sweet, slightly sour odor or flavor.
104		Flavor 2 chipotle tortillas do not have a cooked wheat flour, slightly sweet, slightly sour, slightly smoky, chipotle odor or flavor.

TABLE I. Product defects 1/ 2/ 3/ - Continued

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
105		Flavor 2 chipotle tortillas do not elicit a late sensation of moderate heat.
		<u>Texture</u>
106		Tortillas not soft or not pliable or not slightly chewy.
		<u>Size</u>
	205	Tortillas greater than 7.0 inches in diameter. <u>5/</u>
		<u>Net weight</u>
	206	Package C and J net weight of an individual pouch less than 54 grams. <u>6/</u>
	207	Package E and I net weight of an individual pouch less than 35.2 ounces (998 grams). <u>7/</u>

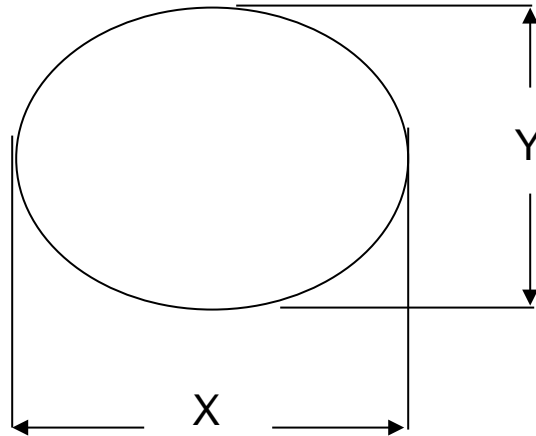
1/ Presence of any foreign materials such as but not limited to dirt, insect parts, hair, glass, wood, or metal, or mold, or any foreign odors or flavors such as, but not limited to burnt, scorched, rancid, stale, musty or moldy shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

2/ Finished product not equal to or better than the approved product standard in palatability and overall appearance shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

3/ The enriched wheat flour shall be verified with the statement of ingredients on the label.

4/ Construction of the oxygen scavenger and compliance with FDA regulations will be verified by Certificate of Conformance (CoC).

5/ The difference (Delta) between the X and Y measurements of the diagram shall not be greater than 0.75 inches. If the difference (Delta) is less than 0.75 inches, these out of round tortillas shall be acceptable.



6/ Sample average net weight less than 2.1 ounces (60 grams) shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

7/ Sample average net weight less than 39.5 ounces (1120 grams) shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

B. Methods of inspection.

(1) Shelf life. The contractor shall provide a Certificate of Conformance that the product has a 36 month shelf life when stored at 80°F. Government verification may include storage for 6 months at 100°F or 36 months at 80°F. Upon completion of either storage period, the product will be subjected to a sensory evaluation panel for appearance and palatability and must receive an overall score of 5 or higher based on a 9 point quality scale to be considered acceptable.

(2) Net weight. The net weight shall be determined by weighing each sample unit on a suitable scale tared with a representative empty pouch and appropriate number of oxygen scavenger(s). The results for the average net weight shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 ounce or to the nearest 1 gram. The results for the individual net weight shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 ounce or to the nearest 1 gram.

(3) Moisture content and pH. For package C and J, the sample to be analyzed shall be a composite of eight filled and sealed pouches that have been selected at random from one production lot regardless of lot size. For package E and I, the sample to be analyzed shall be a composite of three filled and sealed pouches that have been selected at random from one

production lot. The product shall be analyzed for moisture content in accordance with the Official Methods of Analysis (OMA) of AOAC International, method 925.09, and for pH concentration in accordance with the OMA of AOAC International method 943.02. The sample unit shall be one filled and sealed pouch. Test results shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent for moisture and to the nearest 0.1 value for pH level. Government verification will be conducted through actual testing by a Government laboratory. Any result not conforming to the analytical requirement shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

(4) Water activity (a_w) testing. For package C and J, eight filled and sealed pouches shall be selected at random from the lot regardless of lot size. For package E and I, three filled and sealed pouches shall be selected at random from the lot regardless of lot size. Water activity (a_w) shall be determined not less than 4 days but not more than 14 days after packaging the end item to allow moisture equilibration in the product. The pouched product shall be individually tested for water activity in accordance with the OMA of AOAC International, method 978.18, using an electric hygrometer system self temperature controlled (at 25°C) or an equivalent instrument. The sample unit for package C and J shall be a composite specimen made from the center of both tortillas in the pouch. For package E and I, the sample unit shall consist of two tortillas from each pouch obtained as follows: Take each of the 2 stacks of 18 tortillas from each pouch and separate them into approximately equal halves. Take the right side tortilla from each half. A composite specimen shall be made from the center of the two tortillas (one from each half) that were adjacent to each other. The results of each a_w determination shall be reported to the nearest 0.01. Any individual result not conforming to the requirement shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

(5) Calories. The calorie content shall be verified by the NLEA “Nutrition Facts” label. Product not conforming to the calorie content as specified in Section C of this document shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

(6) Oxygen content testing. Eight filled and sealed pouches shall be randomly selected from one production lot and individually tested for oxygen content. Testing shall be accomplished after the filled and sealed pouches have been allowed to equilibrate at room temperature for not less than 48 hours from the time of sealing. Test results shall be reported to the nearest 0.01 percent. Government verification will be conducted through actual testing by a Government laboratory. Any individual result not conforming to the oxygen content requirement shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

E-6 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (PACKAGING AND PACKING MATERIALS)

A. Packaging.

(1) Pouch material certification. The pouch material shall be tested for these characteristics. A Certificate of Conformance (CoC) may be accepted as evidence that the characteristics conform to the specified requirements.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Requirement paragraph</u>	<u>Test procedure</u>
Thickness of films for laminated material	D-1,A(1)a and D-1,A(2)a	ASTM D2103 <u>1/</u>
Aluminum foil thickness	D-1,A(1)a and D-1,A(2)a	ASTM B479 <u>2/</u>
Laminated material identification and construction	D-1,A(1)a and D-1,A(2)a	Laboratory evaluation
Color of laminated material	D-1,A(1)a and D-1,A(2)a	FED-STD-595 <u>3/</u>

1/ Standard Specification for Polyethylene Film and Sheeting

2/ Standard Specification for Annealed Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Foil for Flexible Barrier, Food Contact, and Other Applications

3/ Colors Used in Government Procurement

(2) Unfilled preformed pouch certification. A CoC may be accepted as evidence that unfilled pouches conform to the requirements specified in D-1,A(1)a and b. When deemed necessary by the USDA, testing of the unfilled preformed pouches for seal strength shall be as specified in E-6,B(1)a.

(3) Filled and sealed pouch examination. The filled and sealed pouches shall be examined for the defects listed in table II. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one pouch. The inspection level shall be I and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65 for major defects and 2.5 for minor defects.

TABLE II. Filled and sealed pouch defects 1/

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
101		Tear or hole or open seal.
102		Seal width less than 1/16 inch. <u>2/</u>
103		Presence of delamination. <u>3/</u>
104		Unclean pouch. <u>4/</u>
105		Pouch has foreign odor.
106		Any impression or design on the heat seal surfaces which conceals or impairs visual detection of seal defects. <u>5/</u>
107		Not packaged as specified.
108		Presence of stress cracks in the aluminum foil. <u>6/ 7/</u>
	201	Label missing or incorrect or illegible.
	202	Tear nick or notch or serrations missing or does not facilitate opening.
	203	Seal width less than 1/8 inch but greater than or equal to 1/16 inch. <u>2/</u>
	204	Presence of delamination. <u>3/</u>

1/ Any evidence of rodent or insect infestation shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

2/ The effective closure seal is defined as any uncontaminated, fusion bonded, continuous path, minimum 1/16 inch wide, from side seal to side seal that produces a hermetically sealed pouch.

3/ Delamination defect classification:

Major - Delamination of the outer ply in the pouch seal area that can be propagated to expose aluminum foil at the food product edge of the pouch after manual flexing of the delaminated area. To flex, the delaminated area shall be held between the thumb and

forefinger of each hand with both thumbs and forefingers touching each other. The delaminated area shall then be rapidly flexed 10 times by rotating both hands in alternating clockwise- counterclockwise directions. Care shall be exercised when flexing delaminated areas near the tear notches to avoid tearing the pouch material. After flexing, the separated outer ply shall be grasped between thumb and forefinger and gently lifted toward the food product edge of the seal or if the separated area is too small to be held between thumb and forefinger, a number two stylus shall be inserted into the delaminated area and a gentle lifting force applied against the outer ply. If separation of the outer ply can be made to extend to the product edge of the seal with no discernible resistance to the gentle lifting, the delamination shall be classified as a major defect. Additionally, spot delamination of the outer ply in the body of the pouch that is able to be propagated beyond its initial borders is also a major defect. To determine if the laminated area is a defect, use the following procedure: Mark the outside edges of the delaminated area using a bold permanent marking pen. Open the pouch and remove the contents. Cut the pouch transversely not closer than 1/4 inch ($\pm 1/16$ inch) from the delaminated area. The pouch shall be flexed in the area in question using the procedure described above. Any propagation of the delaminated area, as evidenced by the delaminated area exceeding the limits of the outlined borders, shall be classified as a major defect.

Minor - Minor delamination of the outer ply in the pouch seal area is acceptable and shall not be classified as a minor defect unless it extends to within 1/16 inch of the food product edge of the seal. All other minor outer ply delamination in the pouch seal area or isolated spots of delamination in the body of the pouch that do not propagate when flexed as described above shall be classified as minor defects.

4/ Outer packaging shall be free from foreign matter which is unwholesome, has the potential to cause pouch damage (for example, glass, metal filings) or generally detracts from the clean appearance of the pouch. The following examples shall not be classified as defects for unclean:

a. Foreign matter which presents no health hazard or potential pouch damage and which can be readily removed by gently shaking the package or by gently brushing the pouch with a clean dry cloth.

b. Dried product which affects less than 1/8 of the total surface area of one pouch face (localized and aggregate).

5/ If doubt exists as to whether or not the sealing equipment leaves an impression or design on the closure seal surface that could conceal or impair visual detection of seal defects, samples shall be furnished to the contracting officer for a determination as to acceptability.

6/ Applicable to form-fill-seal pouches only.

7/ The initial examination shall be a visual examination of the closed package. Any suspected visual evidence of stress cracks in the aluminum foil (streaks, breaks, or other disruptions in the laminated film) shall be verified by the following physical examination. To examine for stress cracks, the inside surface of both tray-shaped bodies shall be placed over a light source and the outside surface observed for the passage of light. Observation of light through the pouch material in the form of a curved or straight line greater than 2 mm in length shall be evidence of the presence of stress cracks. Observation of light through the pouch material in the form of a curved or straight line 2 mm in length or smaller or of a single pinpoint shall be considered a pinhole. Observation of ten or more pinholes per pouch shall be evidence of material degradation.

B. Methods of Inspection.

(1) Seal testing. The pouch seals shall be tested for seal strength as required in a, b, or c, as applicable.

a. Unfilled preformed pouch seal testing. The seals of the unfilled preformed pouch shall be tested for seal strength in accordance with ASTM F88/F88M, Standard Test Method for Seal Strength of Flexible Barrier Materials. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one pouch. The sample size shall be the number of pouches indicated by inspection level S-1. Three adjacent specimens shall be cut from each of the three sealed sides of each pouch in the sample. The average seal strength of any side shall be calculated by averaging the three specimens cut from that side. Any average seal strength of less than 6 pounds per inch of width or any test specimen with a seal strength of less than 5 pounds per inch of width shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

b. Pouch closure seal testing. The closure seals of the pouches shall be tested for seal strength in accordance with ASTM F88/F88M. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one pouch. The sample size shall be the number of pouches indicated by inspection level S-1. For the closure seal on preformed pouches, three adjacent specimens shall be cut from the closure seal of each pouch in the sample. For the form-fill-seal pouches, three adjacent specimens shall be cut from each side and each end of each pouch in the sample. The average seal strength of any side, end or closure shall be calculated by averaging the three specimens cut from that side, end or closure. Any average seal strength of less than 6 pounds per inch of width or any test specimen with a seal strength of less than 5 pounds per inch of width shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

c. Internal pressure test. The internal pressure resistance shall be determined by pressurizing the pouches while they are restrained between two rigid plates. The lot size shall

be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one pouch. The sample size shall be the number of pouches indicated by inspection level S-1. If a three seal tester (one that pressurizes the pouch through an open end) is used, the closure seal shall be cut off for testing the side and bottom seals of the pouch. For testing the closure seal, the bottom seal shall be cut off. The pouches shall be emptied prior to testing. If a four-seal tester (designed to pressurize filled pouches by use of a hypodermic needle through the pouch wall) is used, all four seals can be tested simultaneously. The distance between rigid restraining plates on the four-seal tester shall be equal to the thickness of the product +1/16 inch. Pressure shall be applied at the approximate uniform rate of 1 pound per square inch gage (psig) per second until 14 psig pressure is reached. The 14 psig pressure shall be held constant for 30 seconds and then released. The pouches shall then be examined for separation or yield of the heat seals. Any rupture of the pouch or evidence of seal separation greater than 1/16 inch in the pouch manufacturer's seal shall be considered a test failure. Any seal separation that reduces the effective closure seal width to less than 1/16 inch (see table II, footnote 2/) shall be considered a test failure. Any test failure shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

C. Packing.

(1) Shipping container and marking examination. The filled and sealed shipping containers shall be examined for the defects listed in table III. The lot size shall be expressed in shipping containers. The sample unit shall be one shipping container fully packed. The inspection level shall be S-3 and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 4.0 for major defects and 10.0 for total defects.

TABLE III. Shipping container and marking defects

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
101		Marking missing or incorrect or illegible.
102		Inadequate workmanship. <u>1/</u>
	201	More than 40 pounds of product.

1/ Inadequate workmanship is defined as, but not limited to, incomplete closure of container flaps, loose strapping, inadequate stapling, improper taping, or bulged or distorted container.

SECTION J REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, the applicable version of these documents is that which is active on the date of the solicitation or contract.

DLA Troop Support Forms

Form 3556	Marking Instructions for Boxes, Sacks, and Unit Loads of Perishable and Semiperishable Subsistence
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FEDERAL STANDARD

FED-STD-595	Colors Used in Government Procurement
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NON-GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY (ASQ) www.asq.org

ANSI/ASQ Z1.4	Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes
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ASTM INTERNATIONAL www.astm.org

B479	Standard Specification for Annealed Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Foil For Flexible Barrier, Food Contact, and Other Applications
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D1238	Standard Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer
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D1505	Standard Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique
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D1974/D1974M	Standard Practice for Methods of Closing, Sealing, and Reinforcing Fiberboard Boxes
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PCR-T-008A
30 July 2013
SUPERSEDING
PCR-T-008
16 August 2004

D2103	Standard Specification for Polyethylene Film and Sheeting
D5118/D5118M	Standard Practice for Fabrication of Fiberboard Shipping Boxes
F88/F88M	Standard Test Method for Seal Strength of Flexible Barrier Materials

AOAC INTERNATIONAL www.aoac.org

Official Methods of Analysis (OMA) of AOAC International