

SECTION C

This document covers thermostabilized chicken burrito bowl (chicken with rice, beans and vegetables) packaged in a flexible pouch for use by the Department of Defense as a component of operational rations.

C-1 ITEM DESCRIPTION

PCR-C-088, CHICKEN BURRITO BOWL (CHICKEN WITH RICE, BEANS AND VEGETABLES), PACKAGED IN A FLEXIBLE POUCH, SHELF STABLE

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. Commercial sterility. The packaged food shall be processed until commercially sterile.

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

D. Appearance.

(1) General. The finished product shall be a uniform mixture of cooked whole muscle chicken meat dices, rice, pinto beans, corn kernels, diced tomatoes and green chilies with taco seasoning. The packaged food shall be free from foreign materials.

(2) Chicken. The chicken shall be whole muscle chicken meat dices typically produced by a 3/4 inch machine setting. The whole muscle chicken meat shall be derived from unground whole muscle chicken meat in natural proportions (void of any ground product). The end product shall not be diced from a log product. The whole muscle chicken meat dices shall have a cooked chicken color and may have a golden reddish-brown color from the taco seasoning. The packaged product shall be practically free of skin, bone or bone fragments, cartilage, coarse connective tissue, tendons or ligaments, and discolored meat.

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(3) Rice. The white rice shall be enriched, parboiled, long grain, milled rice. The cooked white rice shall have an off-white color and shall be distinct rice grains with a glossy sheen. The cooked rice may have a golden reddish-brown color absorbed from the taco seasoning.

(4) Beans. The pinto beans shall have a reddish-brown color. The pinto beans shall be practically free of broken beans, mashed beans, or loose skins.

(5) Vegetables.

a. Corn. The corn shall be whole kernel and shall have a cooked yellow corn color.

b. Tomatoes. The tomatoes shall be 3/4 inch dices and shall have a cooked red tomato color.

c. Green Chilies. The green chilies shall be dices and shall have a cooked green chili color.

E. Odor and flavor. The packaged food shall have an odor and flavor of cooked chicken, cooked rice, cooked pinto beans, cooked corn, cooked tomatoes and mild green chilies with mild taco seasoning. The packaged food shall be free from foreign odors and flavors.

F. Texture.

(1) Chicken. The whole muscle chicken meat dices shall be moist and tender and shall have a cooked whole muscle chicken meat texture.

(2) Rice. The rice shall be moist and shall be slightly soft to slightly firm.

(3) Beans. The pinto beans shall be slightly soft to slightly firm.

(4) Vegetables. The corn shall have a slightly firm exterior, with a tender interior texture. The tomatoes and green chilies shall be soft and tender.

G. Net weight. The average net weight shall be not less than 8.0 ounces (227 grams). The net weight of an individual pouch shall be not less than 7.5 ounces (213 grams).

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H. Drained weight.

(1) Chicken, rice, pinto beans, and vegetables. The average drained weight of the cooked whole muscle chicken meat dices, rice, pinto beans, and vegetables (combined) shall be not less than 6.2 ounces (176 grams). The drained weight of the cooked whole muscle chicken meat dices, rice, pinto beans, and vegetables (combined) in an individual pouch shall be not less than 5.5 ounces (156 grams).

(2) Chicken. The average drained weight of the whole muscle chicken meat dices shall be not less than 42 grams. The drained weight of the whole muscle chicken meat dices in an individual pouch shall be not less than 28 grams.

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

J. Analytical requirements.

(1) Fat. The fat content shall be not greater than 3.0 percent.

(2) Salt. The salt content shall be not greater than 1.2 percent.

SECTION D

D-1 PACKAGING

Product shall be filled into pouches and processed in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches, Type I, Style 1.

D-2 LABELING

A. Pouches. Each pouch shall be correctly and legibly labeled. Printing ink shall be permanent black ink or any other contrasting color, which is free of carcinogenic elements. Prior to thermal processing of the pouches, the product name, lot number, filling equipment number and time stamp shall be applied. All other marking may be applied before or after thermal processing.

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(1) Product name (not less than 1/8 inch high). Commonly used abbreviations may be used.

(2) Pouch code includes: 1/

Lot Number
Filling equipment identification number
Official establishment number (Optional)
Retort identification number and Retort cook number (Optional)
Time stamp (hour and minute of filling/sealing operation)

1/ The lot number shall be expressed as a four digit Julian code. The first digit shall indicate the year of production and the next three digits shall indicate the day of the year (Example, 14 February 2017 would be coded as 7045). The Julian code shall represent the day the product was packaged into the pouch and processed. Following the four digit Julian code, the other required code information shall be printed in the sequence as listed above.

(3) USDA official inspection legend for the packer's plant 1/

1/ May be placed on the paperboard sleeve if labeled under USDA/FSIS supervision as an identification service.

B. Paperboard sleeves.

(1) The sleeves shall be clearly printed on one of the panels with permanent black ink as follows: 1/

Product name (7/32 to 9/32 inch block letters)
Ingredients
Net weight
Name and address of packer
"Nutrition Facts" label in accordance with the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) and all applicable USDA regulations

1/ With contracting officer approval, this information may be printed on the pouch in lieu of the paperboard sleeve.

(2) The product shall be formulated and labeled in accordance with all USDA labeling regulations and policies. The sleeves (or pouches, as applicable) shall be labeled with the following product name.

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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 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.

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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:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
RDNS-SEC-EMR
NATICK SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER
10 GENERAL GREENE AVENUE
NATICK, MA 01760

One lot shall be randomly selected during each calendar month of production or as otherwise specified in the contract. Three (3) sample units shall be randomly selected from that one production lot. The three (3) 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 and in section 4 of MIL-PRF-44073.

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. The sample unit shall be the contents of one pouch. 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. For drained weight inspection, a

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separate set of pouches shall be selected from the lot using the same sampling criteria as above. The pouches shall be immersed in not less than 140°F and not greater than 190°F water for 10 minutes prior to conducting the product examination and the drained weight inspection.

TABLE I. Product defects 1/ 2/ 3/

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Appearance</u>
101		Product not a uniform mixture of cooked whole muscle chicken meat dices, rice, pinto beans, corn kernels, diced tomatoes and green chilies with taco seasoning.
102		Bone or bone fragment measuring more than 0.3 inch in any dimension.
	201	Total weight of skin, cartilage, coarse connective tissue, tendons or ligaments, and discolored meat more than 0.20 ounce (5.7 grams).
	202	Chicken not whole muscle chicken meat dices.
	203	Whole muscle chicken meat dices not a cooked chicken color. <u>4/</u>
	204	Rice not an off-white color or not distinct rice grains or does not have a glossy sheen. <u>4/ 5/</u>
	205	Pinto beans not a reddish-brown color.
	206	Pinto beans not practically free of broken beans, mashed beans, or loose skins.
	207	Corn not whole kernel or not a cooked yellow corn color.
	208	Tomatoes not 3/4 inch dices or not a cooked red tomato color. <u>6/</u>
	209	Green chilies not dices or not a cooked green chili color.

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

<u>Category</u>		<u>Defect</u>
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
		<u>Odor and flavor</u>
103		Product does not have an odor or flavor of cooked chicken, cooked rice, cooked pinto beans, cooked corn, cooked tomatoes or mild green chilies with mild taco seasoning.
		<u>Texture</u>
	210	Whole muscle chicken meat dices not moist or not tender or does not have a cooked whole muscle chicken meat texture.
	211	Rice not moist or not slightly soft to slightly firm.
	212	Pinto beans not slightly soft to slightly firm.
	213	Corn not slightly firm exterior or not tender interior texture.
	214	Tomatoes or green chilies not soft or not tender.
		<u>Net weight</u>
	215	Net weight of an individual pouch less than 7.5 ounces (213 grams). <u>7/</u>
		<u>Drained weight</u>
	216	Drained weight of cooked whole muscle chicken meat dices, rice, pinto beans and vegetables (combined) in an individual pouch less than 5.5 ounces (156 grams). <u>8/</u>
	217	Drained weight of cooked whole muscle chicken meat dices in an individual pouch less than 28 grams. <u>9/</u>

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

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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/ Machine setting and the requirement for whole muscle chicken meat dices derived from unground whole muscle chicken meat in natural proportions (void of any ground product) shall be verified by a Certificate of Conformance (CoC).

4/ Golden reddish-brown color from absorbed taco seasoning shall not be scored as a defect.

5/ Verification of the rice as enriched, parboiled, long grain, milled rice shall be with the statement of ingredients on the label or verified by producer's CoC. Any nonconforming result shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

6/ Size requirements for tomatoes shall be verified by CoC.

7/ Sample average net weight less than 8.0 ounces (227 grams) shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

8/ Sample average drained weight of whole muscle chicken meat dices, rice, pinto beans and vegetables (combined) less than 6.2 ounces (176 grams) shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

9/ Sample average drained weight of whole muscle chicken meat dices less than 42 grams shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

B. Methods of inspection.

(1) Commercial sterility. Commercial sterility shall be verified in accordance with USDA/FSIS regulations.

(2) 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.

(3) Net weight. The net weight of the filled and sealed pouches shall be determined by weighing each sample on a suitable scale tared with a representative empty pouch. Results shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 ounce or to the nearest 1 gram.

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(4) Drained weight. ~~Weigh a U.S. Standard No. 7 sieve to obtain the sieve tare weight. The pouch contents shall be poured into a flat-bottom container. A minimum of three times the volume of the pouch of not less than 140°F and not greater than 190°F water shall be added to the container so as to cover the contents. The contents and water shall be gently agitated so as to liquefy rendered fat without breaking the chicken, rice, beans or vegetables. The contents shall then be poured into a U.S. Standard No. 7 sieve in a manner that will distribute the product over the sieve without breaking the chicken, rice, beans or vegetables. The sieve area shall be such that the distributed product does not completely cover all the openings of the sieve. The sieve shall be tilted at such an angle to assure complete drainage of liquid from the product. Drain product for two minutes before determining the combined drained weight by subtracting the sieve tare weight from the gross weight. Remove chicken from the sieve and record weight of sieve plus its contents. Subtract the weight of the sieve plus its contents from the combined drained weight and sieve to determine the weight of the chicken. The drained weight shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 ounce or to the nearest 1 gram.~~ Use a U.S. Standard No. 7 sieve for the drained weight examination. Heat all the pouches at the same time for 10 minutes in hot water. 1/ Pour the contents of the pouch into a flat-bottom container and repeatedly add hot water until all of the product has been removed from the pouch. 1/ Additional hot water may be added to the flat-bottom container so as to cover all the contents. 1/ The mixture shall be gently agitated so as to liquefy rendered fat without breaking the product. 2/ The mixture shall not sit for greater than two minutes. The contents shall then be poured into the sieve in a manner that will distribute the product over the sieve without breaking up the product. The sieve area shall be such that the distributed product does not completely cover all the openings of the sieve. The sieve shall be tilted at an angle from 30 to 45 degrees to ensure complete drainage of liquid from the product. Drain product for two minutes. Place the sieve and its contents onto the scale and tare the scale to zero. Remove the chicken meat dices from the sieve. Place the sieve back on the scale and record the weight as a positive number. This value is the drained weight of the chicken meat dices. Empty the remaining contents of the sieve by turning the sieve upside down and dumping the remaining product. Place the sieve back on the scale and record the weight as a positive number. This value is the combined drained weight. When necessary, rinse the screen before performing the next drained weight exam. The drained weight shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 ounce or to the nearest 1 gram. 3/

1/ Water temperature shall be not less than 140°F and not greater than 165°F.

2/ Additional hot water may be required for completely removing sauce and liquefying rendered fat.

3/ The initial unit of measurement shall be maintained throughout the exam (example: if ounce is used, the unit of measurement shall remain as ounces throughout the exam).

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(5) Analytical. The sample to be analyzed shall be a composite of eight filled and sealed pouches which have been selected at random from the lot. The composite sample shall be prepared and analyzed in accordance with the following methods of the Official Methods of Analysis (OMA) of AOAC International.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method Number</u>
Fat	991.36 or 2008.06
Salt	935.47

Test results shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent. 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.

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

A. Packaging.

(1) Pouch material testing. The pouch material shall be examined for the characteristics listed in table I of MIL-PRF-44073 for Type I. The lot size, sample unit, and inspection level criteria for each of the test characteristics are listed below. Any test failure shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

Characteristic	Lot size expressed in	Sample unit	Inspection level
Oxygen transmission rate	yards	1/2 yard	S-1
Water vapor transmission rate	yards	1/2 yard	S-1
Camouflage	yards	1/2 yard	S-1
Thermal processing	pouches	1 pouch	S-2
Low temperature	pouches	1 pouch	S-2
High temperature	pouches	1 pouch	S-2
Directional tear	pouches	1 pouch	S-3

(2) Filled and sealed pouch testing. The filled and sealed thermoprocessed or hot-fill processed pouches shall be examined for the characteristics listed in table I of MIL-PRF-44073 for Type I. The lot size, sample unit, and inspection level criteria for each of the test characteristics are listed below. Any test failure shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

Characteristic	Lot size expressed in	Sample unit	Inspection level
Residual gas volume	pouches	1 pouch	S-2
Internal pressure	pouches	1 pouch	S-2 <u>1/</u>

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1/ When a three-seal tester is used, a separate set of samples is required for testing of the closure seal.

(3) Pouch examination. The pouches shall be examined for the defects listed in table II of MIL-PRF-44073 for Type I. The lot size shall be expressed in pouches. The sample unit shall be one thermal processed pouch. The inspection level shall be I and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65 for major A defects, 2.5 for major B defects, and 4.0 for minor defects. Two hundred sample units shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

(4) Sleeve examination. The sleeves shall be examined for the defects listed in table III of MIL-PRF-44073 for Type I. The lot size shall be expressed in units of sleeves. The sample unit shall be one sleeve. The inspection level shall be S-3 and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65 for major defects and 2.5 for minor defects.

B. Packing.

(1) Shipping container and marking examination. The filled and sealed shipping containers shall be examined for the defects listed in table II. 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 II. 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 Form

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

MILITARY SPECIFICATIONS

MIL-PRF-44073 Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches

NON-GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS

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

ANSI/ASQ Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes

ASTM INTERNATIONAL www.astm.org

D1974/D1974M Standard Practice for Methods of Closing, Sealing, and Reinforcing Fiberboard Boxes

D4727/D4727M Standard Specification for Corrugated and Solid Fiberboard Sheet Stock (Container Grade) and Cut Shapes

D5118/D5118M Standard Practice for Fabrication of Fiberboard Shipping Boxes

AOAC INTERNATIONAL www.aoac.org

Official Methods of Analysis (OMA) of AOAC International