

TO: DLA Troop Support - Subsistence DSCP-FTRE

SUBJECT: ES13-058 (DSCP-SS-13-01082); Document Change Request to Meal, Ready-to-Eat™ (MRE™) Food Product Documents to Allow for Conversion to Paperboard Sleeves in lieu of Cartons

Date received: 26 September 2013

Date due: 25 December 2013

Date replied: 27 September 2013

1. Natick requests changes to affected food product documents (as described in detail below) to accommodate the Joint Service approved transition from paperboard cartons to paperboard sleeves in the MRE™ and the recent United States Department of Agriculture - Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) approval of alternate labeling procedures for the retort pouch and paperboard sleeve that will still achieve regulatory compliance.

2. Changes to the affected documents are for MRE 34™ and all future MRE™ procurements. In lieu of making 31 separate documents changes at this time, this memo with summary of changes is recommended to expedite the transition to Defense Logistics Agency – Troop Support and to meet their MRE™ 34 solicitation deadlines. Due to slight variations in labeling requirements for USDA, FDA, entrée and side items, as well as different initial formatting within the affected documents, the requested changes below are grouped by similar documents with similar changes.

3. Natick requests the following changes to the affected MRE™, USDA inspected entrée documents: PCR-A-005, PCR-B-020A, PCR-B-021A, PCR-B-029A, PCR-B-050, PCR-B-054, PCR-B-057, PCR-C-021A, PCR-C-027A, PCR-C-062, PCR-C-069, PCR-C-077, PCR-M-015, PCR-M-016, PCR-P-045, PCR-P-047, PCR-R-013, PCR-S-002 and PCR-S-018:

(1) Section D-1: Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert “Product shall be filled into pouches and processed in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches, Type I.”

(2) Section D-2, A, (2): Delete “Official establishment number” or “Official inspection legend” depending on the document and insert “Official establishment number (optional)”.

(3) Section D-2, A: After “Time stamp...” insert “(3) USDA official inspection legend for the packer’s plant”.

(4) Section D-2, B: Delete “Cartons” and insert “Paperboard sleeves”.

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(5) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “The cartons shall be clearly printed on one of the largest panels with permanent black ink as follows:” and insert “The sleeves shall be clearly printed on one of the panels with permanent black ink as follows: 1/”.

(6) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “Code (same as pouch code, see pouches) 1/ 2/ 3/” and “USDA official inspection legend for the packer’s plant”.

(7) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 1/ in its entirety and insert “1/ With contracting officer approval, this information may be printed on the pouch in lieu of the paperboard sleeve.”

(8) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 2/ in its entirety.

(9) Section D-2, B, (1): When present in the document, delete footnote 3/ in its entirety.

(10) Section D-2, B, (2): Delete “...shall be printed on the entrée carton’s large panel opposite to the panel printed with the data in D-2,B(1) above. The information, provided by the contracting officer, shall be clearly printed with permanent black ink in an area no smaller than 4-1/4 inches by 6-3/4 inches.” and insert “...shall be printed on the entrée sleeve’s panel opposite to the panel printed with the data in D-2,B(1) above, as applicable. The information, provided by the contracting officer, shall be clearly printed with permanent black ink in an area no smaller than 4 inches by 5-1/4 inches.”

(11) Section D-2, B, (3): When paragraph is present in the document, delete “The cartons shall be labeled with the following product name.” and insert “The sleeves (or pouches, as applicable) shall be labeled with the following product name.”

(12) Section D-3, A: When present in the document, delete “Seventy-two pouches (of the same product) in cartons” and insert “Seventy-two pouches (of the same product)”.

(13) Section E-6, A, (4): Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert “Examination of pouch and sleeve. The completed pouch and accompanying sleeve 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 completed pouches and sleeves. The sample unit shall be one pouch and 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. Fifty sample

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pouches and sleeves shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.”

4. Natick requests the following changes to the affected MRE™, FDA inspected entrée documents: PCR-C-020A, PCR-P-036, PCR-R-012 and PCR-V-010:

(1) Section D-1: Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert “Product shall be filled into pouches and processed in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches, Type I.”

(2) Section D-2, B: Delete “Cartons” and insert “Paperboard sleeves”.

(3) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “The cartons shall be clearly printed on one of the largest panels with permanent black ink as follows:” and insert “The sleeves shall be clearly printed on one of the panels with permanent black ink as follows: 1/”.

(4) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “Code (same as pouch code, see pouches) 1/ 2/ 3/”.

(5) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 1/ in its entirety and insert “1/ With contracting officer approval, this information may be printed on the pouch in lieu of the paperboard sleeve.”

(6) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 2/ in its entirety.

(7) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 3/ in its entirety.

(8) Section D-2, B, (2): Delete “...shall be printed on the entrée carton’s large panel opposite to the panel printed with the data in D-2,B(1) above. The information, provided by the contracting officer, shall be clearly printed with permanent black ink in an area no smaller than 4-1/4 inches by 6-3/4 inches.” and insert “...shall be printed on the entrée sleeve’s panel opposite to the panel printed with the data in D-2,B(1) above, as applicable. The information, provided by the contracting officer, shall be clearly printed with permanent black ink in an area no smaller than 4 inches by 5-1/4 inches.”

(9) Section D-2, B, (3): When paragraph is present in the document, delete “...The cartons shall be labeled with the following product name.” and insert “...The sleeves (or pouches, as applicable) shall be labeled with the following product name.”

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(10) Section E-6, A, (4): Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert “Examination of pouch and sleeve. The completed pouch and accompanying sleeve 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 completed pouches and sleeves. The sample unit shall be one pouch and 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. Fifty sample pouches and sleeves shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.”

5. Natick requests the following changes to affected MRE™, FDA inspected sides documents: PCR-B-056, PCR-P-011A, PCR-P-048, PCR-R-001A and PCR-S-019:

(1) Section D-1: Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert “Product shall be filled into pouches and processed in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches, Type I.”

(2) Section D-2, A, (2): When present in the document, delete “Official establishment number (for example, EST-38)” and insert “Official establishment number (optional)”.

(3) Section D-2, B: Delete “Cartons” and insert “Paperboard sleeves”.

(4) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “The cartons shall be clearly printed on one of the largest panels with permanent black ink as follows:” and insert “The sleeves shall be clearly printed on one of the panels with permanent black ink as follows: 1/ 2/”.

(5) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “Code (same as pouch code, see pouches) 1/ 2/ 3/” and “USDA official inspection legend for the packer’s plant”, when present.

(6) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 1/ in its entirety and insert “1/ With contracting officer approval, this information may be printed on the pouch in lieu of the paperboard sleeve.”

(7) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 2/ in its entirety and insert “2/ If printed on the sleeve, it shall be configured to fit alongside similar information for an accompanying pouched product. Identity of accompanying pouched product and approval of label design shall be obtained from the contracting officer.”

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(8) Section D-2, B, (1): When present in the document, delete footnote 3/ in its entirety.

(9) Section D-2, B, (2): Delete paragraph in its entirety.

(10) Section D-2, B, (3): Delete "...The cartons shall be labeled..." and insert "...The sleeves (or pouches, as applicable) shall be labeled...". Renumber as D-2, B, (2).

(11) Section D-3, A: When applicable, delete "Seventy-two pouches (of the same product) in cartons" and insert "Seventy-two pouches (of the same product)".

(12) Section E-6, A, (4): Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert "Examination of pouch and sleeve. The completed pouch and accompanying sleeve 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 completed pouches and sleeves. The sample unit shall be one pouch and 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. Fifty sample pouches and sleeves shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot."

6. Natick requests the following changes to affected MRE™, FDA inspected fruits documents: PCR-A-001B, PCR-C-058 and PCR-F-002C:

(1) Section D-1: Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert "Product shall be filled into pouches and processed in accordance with MIL-PRF-44073, Packaging of Food in Flexible Pouches, Type I." For PCR-F-002C, also insert "Applesauce shall be packaged in a side or center spout pouch."

(2) Section D-2, A, (2): When present in the document, delete "Official establishment number (for example, EST-38)" and insert "Official establishment number (optional)".

(3) Section D-2, B: Delete "Cartons" and insert "Paperboard sleeves".

(4) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete "The cartons shall be clearly printed on one of the largest panels with permanent black ink as follows:" and insert "The sleeves shall be clearly printed on one of the panels with permanent black ink as follows: 1/ 2/".

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(5) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete “Code (same as pouch code, see pouches) 1/ 2/ 3/.”

(6) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 1/ in its entirety and insert “1/ With contracting officer approval, this information may be printed on the pouch in lieu of the paperboard sleeve.”

(7) Section D-2, B, (1): Delete footnote 2/ in its entirety and insert “2/ If printed on the sleeve, it shall be configured to fit alongside similar information for an accompanying pouched product. Identity of accompanying pouched product and approval of label design shall be obtained from the contracting officer.”

(8) Section D-2, B, (1): When present in the document, delete footnote 3/ in its entirety.

(9) Section D-2, B, (2): Delete paragraph in its entirety.

(10) Section D-2, B, (3): Delete “...The cartons shall be labeled...” and insert “...The sleeves (or pouches, as applicable) shall be labeled...”. Renumber as D-2, B, (2).

(11) Section D-3, A: When present in the paragraph, delete “...40 pounds of pouches in cartons...” and insert “...40 pounds of product...”

(12) Section D-3, A: When present in the paragraph, delete “Seventy-two pouches (of the same product) in cartons” and insert “Seventy-two pouches (of the same product)”.

(13) Section E-6, A, (4): Delete paragraph in its entirety and insert “Examination of pouch and sleeve. When applicable, the completed pouch and accompanying sleeve shall be examined for the defects listed in table III of MIL-PRF-44073. The lot size shall be expressed in units of completed pouches and sleeves. The sample unit shall be one pouch and 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. Fifty sample pouches and sleeves shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.”

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7. Natick recommends that DLA-Troop Support use the above summary of document changes for the MRE™ 34 solicitation. Natick will follow up with formal document changes to replace the paperboard carton with the paperboard sleeve at a later date.