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**25 July 2014**  
**W/Change 02 28 Oct 21 ES21-041 (DSCP-SS-21-01027)**  
**SUPERSEDING**  
**PCR-C-058**  
**11 March 2005**

## **SECTION C**

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

### **C-1 ITEM DESCRIPTION**

#### **PCR-C-058A, COBBLER, PACKAGED IN A FLEXIBLE POUCH, SHELF STABLE**

##### Flavor.

Flavor 1 - Cherry blueberry

### **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 food shall meet the minimum shelf life requirement of 36 months at 80°F.

D. Appearance.

(1) General. The finished product shall be cooked cherry blueberry cobbler with a baked cookie/crust containing chopped pecans. The product shall show no signs of excessive heating (materially darkened or scorched). The product shall be free from foreign materials.

(2) Fruit. The cooked cherries and blueberries shall be a dark reddish purple color and shall be distinct pieces.

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a. Cherries, dark, sweet, pitted, individually quick frozen (IQF). The IQF cherries shall be unsweetened and of the latest season's pack. The packaged IQF cherries shall be free flowing from the package and shall show no evidence of thawing and refreezing.

b. Blueberries, individually quick frozen (IQF). The IQF blueberries shall be unsweetened and of the latest season's pack. The packaged IQF blueberries shall be free flowing from the package and shall show no evidence of thawing and refreezing.

(3) Sauce. The sauce shall be a dark reddish purple color, slightly to moderately thick, and glossy.

(4) Cookie/crust. The baked cookie/crust with chopped pecans shall be intact. The Baked cookie/crust shall be tinted a dark reddish purple color from contact with the sauce.

E. Odor and flavor. The cobbler shall have a cooked cherry blueberry odor and flavor and shall be sweet and slightly tart. The baked cookie/crust shall be sweet and slightly nutty. The packaged food shall be free from foreign odors and flavors.

F. Texture.

(1) Fruit. The cooked cherries and blueberries shall be slightly firm to slightly soft.

(2) Sauce. The sauce shall be smooth and slightly to moderately thick.

(3) Cookie/crust. The baked cookie/crust shall be moist with firm and slightly crunchy pecans.

G. Net weight. The average net weight shall be not less than 5.0 ounces (142 Grams). No individual pouch shall have a net weight of less than 4.5 ounces (128 grams).

(1) Fruit and sauce. The average net weight of the fruit and sauce shall be not less 3.25 ounces (92 grams) and not greater than 4 ounces (113 grams). As confirmed by USDA review of formulation.

(2) Cookie/crust. The average net weight of the baked cookie/crust shall be not less than 0.75 ounces and not greater than 1.0 ounce. As confirmed by USDA review of formulation.

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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) Fat. The fat content shall be not greater than 8.0 percent. The *trans* fat content shall be not greater than 0 grams per serving.

(2) Salt. The salt content shall be not less than 0.1 percent and not greater than 0.8 percent.

**SECTION D**

**D-1 PACKAGING**

Product shall be filled into pouches and sealed 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.

(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)

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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 2015 would be coded as 5045). 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.

B. Paperboard sleeves.

(1)The sleeves shall be clearly printed on one of the panels with permanent black ink as follows: 1/ 2/

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 FDA regulations

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

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.

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

CHERRY BLUEBERRY COBBLER

**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

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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.

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(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-SEC-F  
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. 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 the 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.

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TABLE I. Product defects 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/

<u>Category</u>		<u>Defect</u>
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
		<u>Appearance</u>
101		Product not cooked cherry blueberry cobbler with a baked cookie/crust containing chopped pecans.
102		Evidence of excessive heating (materially darkened or scorched).
	201	Cooked cherries and blueberries not a dark reddish purple color.
	202	Cooked cherries and blueberries not distinct pieces.
	203	Sauce not a dark reddish purple color or not slightly to moderately thick or not glossy.
	204	Baked cookie/crust with chopped pecans not intact. <u>6/</u>
	205	Baked cookie/crust not tinted a dark reddish purple color from contact with the sauce.
		<u>Odor and flavor</u>
103		Product not cooked cherry blueberry odor or flavor or not sweet and not slightly tart.
	206	Odor or flavor of baked cookie/crust not sweet or not slightly nutty.
		<u>Texture</u>
	207	Cooked cherries and blueberries not slightly firm to slightly soft.
	208	Sauce not smooth or not slightly to moderately thick.
	209	Baked cookie/crust not moist.
	210	Pecans not firm or not slightly crunchy.

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TABLE I. Product defects 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/

<u>Category</u>		<u>Defect</u>
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Weight</u>
	211	Net weight of an individual pouch less than 4.5 ounces (128 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 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.

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 IQF of fruit shall be verified by a Certificate of Conformance (CoC). The CoC shall also establish that IQF fruit is of latest season's pack.

4/ The weight of fruit and sauce, and baked cookie/crust shall be verified with a CoC from the manufacturer based on the formula.

5/ The *trans* fat content shall be verified by the NLEA label. Product not conforming to the *trans* fat content as specified in Section C of this document shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

6/ More than four broken pieces per baked cookie/crust.

7/ Sample average net weight less than 5.0 ounces (142 grams) shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

B. Methods of inspection.

(1) Commercial sterility. Commercial sterility shall be verified in accordance with FDA regulations.



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(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 unit 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.

(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
Salt	935.47 or 971.27

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.

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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>

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 1/. When applicable, the 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 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.

1/ Or separate paperboard insert card when used in lieu of the paperboard sleeve.

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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.

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**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](http://www.asq.org)

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

ASTM INTERNATIONAL [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

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

D5118/D5118M              Standard Practice for Fabrication of Fiberboard  
Shipping Boxes

AOAC INTERNATIONAL [www.aoac.org](http://www.aoac.org)

Official Methods of Analysis (OMA) of AOAC International