

Item: **Italian Sausage with Peppers and Onions in Marinara Sauce**

Document: **PCR-I-003, Italian Sausage with Peppers and Onions in Marinara Sauce, Packaged in a Flexible Pouch, Shelf Stable**

Approximate Caloric Value Per Serving: **350**                      Component Classification: **Primary**

Estimated Shelf Life: **36 months at 80°F**

**Item Characteristics**

Cooked sliced Italian sausage with red and yellow bell peppers and onions in marinara sauce.

Appearance: Sausage: Tan to light brown cooked sausage color, may have a red to reddish-brown color from absorbed sauce; Pouch shall contain a minimum of 6 intact sausage rounds that are 1-1/4 ± 1/8 inches in diameter and 1/8 to 1/4 inches in width.

Peppers: Cooked red and yellow bell pepper strips.

Onions: Cooked onion strips with a translucent off-white color.

Sauce: Glossy opaque red to reddish brown color. Flecks of herbs and spices; may have tomato pieces.

Odor: Cooked sweet and spicy sausage, tomato, bell pepper, onion, garlic, basil and oregano.

Flavor: Cooked sweet and spicy sausage, moderate red chili pepper, tomato, bell pepper, onion, garlic, basil and oregano.

Texture: Sausage: Moderately firm with a tender chew, shall not be mushy or dry.  
Vegetables: Tender.  
Sauce: Slightly thick.

**Possible Deteriorative Changes**

Appearance: Moderately darkened sauce, excessively oiling off of fat; excessively thick or thin sauce. Moderately darkened sausage. Peppers not red and yellow bell pepper color.

Odor: Scorched, bitter, cooked sausage.

Flavor: Scorched, bitter, cooked sausage, excessive loss of spice or tomato flavor.

Texture: Sausage: Rubbery, dry, mushy. Sauce: Excessively thick or thin.

**Unique Examination/Test Procedures**

N/A

**Special Notes**

N/A