

METRIC

A-A-20248B
September 9, 2008
SUPERSEDING
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COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LITE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description (CID).

1. SCOPE. This CID covers lite mozzarella cheese packed in commercially acceptable containers, suitable for use by the Federal, State, local governments, and other interested parties; and for use in Child Nutrition Programs.

2. PURCHASER NOTES.

2.1 Purchasers *shall specify* the following.

- Style(s) and shred size(s) of lite mozzarella cheese required (Sec. 3).
- When analytical requirements are different than specified (Sec. 6.1).
- When analytical requirements need to be verified (Sec. 6.3).
- Manufacturer's quality assurance (Sec. 9.1), Manufacturer's/distributor's certification (Sec. 9.2) or USDA certification (Sec.9.3).

2.2 Purchasers *may specify* the following.

- Special labeling and packaging requirements (Sec. 10).

3. CLASSIFICATION. The lite mozzarella cheese shall conform to the following list, which shall be specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

Styles and shred sizes.

Style 1 - Loaf

Style 2 - Shredded

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Shred size A - 3.2 mm (1/8 in) x 3.2 mm (1/8 in) x 3.2 mm (1/8 in) to 38.1 mm (1-1/2 in)

Shred size B - 1.6 mm (1/16 in) x 1.6 mm (1/16 in) x 3.2 mm (1/8 in) to 38.1 mm (1-1/2 in)

Shred size C - Other (as specified by purchaser)

4. MANUFACTURER'S/DISTRIBUTOR'S NOTES. Manufacturer's/distributor's products *shall meet the requirements of the:*

- Salient characteristics (Sec. 5).
- Analytical requirements: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 6).
- Manufacturer's/distributor's product assurance (Sec. 7).
- Regulatory requirements (Sec. 8).
- Quality assurance provisions: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 9).
- Packaging requirements other than commercial: *as specified by the purchaser* (Sec. 10).

5. SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.

5.1 Processing. The lite mozzarella cheese shall be prepared and packaged in accordance with good manufacturing practices (21 CFR Part 110).

5.1.1 Pasteurization. All dairy ingredients shall be pasteurized at a temperature of not less than 71.7°C (161°F) for a period of not less than 15 seconds, or for a time and at a temperature equivalent thereto in phosphatase destruction.

5.1.2 Dairy ingredients. Dairy ingredients used in the manufacture of lite mozzarella cheese shall originate from a plant that has been approved by the Dairy Grading Branch (DGB), Dairy Programs (DP), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA.

5.1.3 Manufacturing plants. The manufacturing plants shall be eligible for Section I listing in the most recent version of the publication Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service.

5.1.4 Anticaking agent. If an anticaking agent is used, the amount used shall be the minimum required to produce the desired effect, but shall not exceed 2.0 percent of the weight of the lite shredded mozzarella cheese.

5.2 Finished product. The lite mozzarella cheese shall contain a minimum of 50 percent less fat than that of regular mozzarella cheese and shall comply with all applicable Federal regulations including those contained in 21 CFR § 133.155 for mozzarella cheese, 21 CFR § 101.56 for food nutrient content claims for light or lite, 21 CFR §101.13 for general principles for nutrient content claims, and 21 CFR § 130.10 *Requirements for foods named by use of a*

nutrient content claim and a standardized term. The shredded lite mozzarella cheese shall also comply with 21 CFR § 133.146 for grated chesses.

5.3 Quality Specifications.

5.3.1 Flavor and odor. The lite mozzarella cheese shall have a mild pleasing flavor. The cheese may possess slight acid and feed flavors, but shall not possess any undesirable flavors or odors.

5.3.2 Body and texture. The loaf style lite mozzarella cheese shall possess a smooth, pliable body and shall not contain sweet holes or be gassy. The cheese shall be free from all foreign and extraneous materials. The cheese may have the following body and texture characteristics to a slight degree: open (caused by entrapped steam), lacking flexibility, mealy, weak, sticky, and rubbery. The shredded lite mozzarella cheese shall be free flowing and shall not be matted.

5.3.3 Appearance. No visible signs of mold shall be permitted.

5.3.4 Color. The cheese shall have a natural white to light cream, uniform bright color, and an attractive sheen. The loaf style mozzarella cheese may be wavy to a very slight degree, and may have a slight variation in color due to salt penetration.

5.3.5 Shred size. For shred size A, the shredded lite mozzarella cheese shall be shredded to a nominal length and width of 3.2 mm x 3.2 mm (1/8 in x 1/8 in), and for shred size B, the shredded lite mozzarella cheese shall be shredded to a nominal length of 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm (1/16 in x 1/16 in) and the length should be 3.2 mm to 30.48 mm (1/8 in to 1-1/2 in).

5.3.6 Fines. Lite mozzarella cheese in shredded form shall contain not more than 8.0 percent fines. Fines shall be tested using a Standard Test Sieve (USA) sieve No. 8 (2.36 mm) for 3.2 mm x 3.2 mm (1/8 in x 1/8 in) shreds or sieve No. 14 (1.4 mm) for 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm (1/16 in x 1/16 in) shreds.

5.4 Age and storage requirements. The lite mozzarella cheese shall be aged not less than 5 days and not more than 15 days at 3.3 to 5.5°C (38 - 42°F) prior to inspection unless the cheese is manufactured and immediately shredded and frozen. If the shredded cheese is not frozen immediately after manufacture, the cheese shall be stored at 3.3 - 5.5°C (38 - 42°F) until frozen.

5.5 Shelf life. The shelf life of the loaf lite mozzarella cheese shall not be less than 120 days after manufacture and the shelf life of shredded lite mozzarella cheese shall not be less than 90 days after manufacture, when stored between 1.7 to 5.5°C (35 to 42°F).

6. ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

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6.1 Analytical requirements. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the lite mozzarella cheese shall conform to the following analytical requirements.

6.1.1 Milk fat content. The lite mozzarella cheese shall contain not more than 10.8 percent milk fat (as marketed).

6.1.2 Moisture content. The lite mozzarella cheese moisture content shall not be less than 52.0 percent and not more than 60.0 percent.

6.1.3 Salt content. The lite mozzarella cheese shall contain not less than 1.2 percent but not more than 1.8 percent salt.

6.1.4 pH. The lite mozzarella cheese shall have a pH value not to exceed 5.30 using the quinhydrone method.

6.1.5 Meltability. The lite mozzarella cheese shall melt completely, shall not exhibit shreds of unmelted cheese or excessive blistering, and shall stretch to a minimum of 76.2 mm (3 in) of unbroken strings. The melted cheese may be chewy but not gummy. The cheese may possess a slightly darker color than the color of cheese before cooking but shall not exhibit burnt areas or excessive browning. When testing meltability of lite mozzarella cheese on a pizza, place the pizza in an oven preheated to 232°C (450°F) and bake at that temperature for 10 minutes.

6.2 Preparation of sample. A minimum of 100 g (3.5 oz) of lite mozzarella cheese must be blended to uniformity in a minimum time using a Robot Coupe food processor (AOAC method 983.18) or equivalent. This uniform sample may then be used in the analyses for fat, moisture, salt, and pH. For the meltability test using a loaf, either manually shred 100g (3.5 oz) through a 6.4 mm (¼ in) shredder or a mechanical shredder. No further processing is required for the Meltability testing of the shredded samples (Style 2).

6.3 Analytical and physical testing. When specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, analyses shall be in accordance with the following methods from the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International, and the latest edition of the USDA - DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures, or the latest edition of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method</u>
Fat	933.05 <u>1</u> /
Moisture	926.08
Salt	935.43 or 983.14 <u>1</u> /

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method</u>
pH	Quinhydrone, Ch. 15 <u>2/</u>
Meltability	Section C.5 <u>3/</u>
Fines	See Sec. 5.3.6

- 1/ The 18th edition of the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International.
- 2/ The 17th edition, 2004, of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products.
- 3/ The USDA, AMS, DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures issued on January 2, 2001.

6.4 Test results. The test results for fines, fat, moisture, and salt shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent. The test results for pH shall be reported to the nearest 0.01 value. The test results for meltability shall be reported in accordance with DA Instruction 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures. Any result not conforming to the analytical requirements shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

7. MANUFACTURER’S/DISTRIBUTOR’S PRODUCT ASSURANCE. The manufacturer/distributor shall certify that the lite mozzarella cheese provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this CID, conform to their own specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same lite mozzarella cheese offered for sale in the commercial market. The purchaser reserves the right to require proof of conformance.

8. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. The delivered lite mozzarella cheese shall comply with all applicable Federal and State mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sale of lite mozzarella cheese within the commercial marketplace. The delivered lite mozzarella cheese shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder. The lite mozzarella cheese shall comply with the allergen labeling requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. When the light mozzarella cheese is used for the National School Lunch Program, the cheese must comply with all applicable provisions of the Child Nutrition Programs.

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS. *Purchaser shall specify 9.1, 9.2 or 9.3.*

9.1 Manufacturer’s quality assurance and plant survey. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchaser order, the product manufacturer shall be required to have their facilities inspected by USDA, AMS, DP, DGB, and be eligible for listing in Section I of the AMS publication Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service. *(An AMS plant survey verifies that, at the time of the survey, the manufacturer produces products in a clean, sanitary environment in accordance with Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 110 -*

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Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packing, or Holding Human Food and the requirements contained in 7 CFR Part 58 General Specification for Dairy Plants Approved for USDA Inspection and Grading Service.)

9.2 Manufacturer's/distributor's certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, the manufacturer/distributor will certify that the lite mozzarella cheese distributed meets or exceeds the requirements of this CID.

9.3 USDA certification. When required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order that product quality and acceptability or both be determined, the USDA, AMS, DP, DGB, shall be the certifying program. DGB inspectors shall certify the quality and acceptability of the lite mozzarella cheese in accordance with DGB procedures which include selecting random samples of the lite mozzarella cheese, evaluating the samples for conformance with the salient characteristics of this CID and other contractual requirements, and documenting the findings on official DGB certificates. In addition, when required in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, DGB inspectors will examine the lite mozzarella cheese for conformance to the United States Standards for Condition for Food Containers in effect on the date of the solicitation. To qualify for this option the plant must be listed in Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service (see Sec. 9.1).

10. PACKAGING. Preservation, packaging, packing, labeling, and case marking shall be commercial unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

11. USDA INSPECTION NOTES. When Section 9.3 is specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order, USDA certification shall include evaluation of the quality and condition of samples of the lite mozzarella cheese and compliance with requirements in the following areas.

- Salient characteristics (Sec. 5).
- Analytical requirements *when specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order* (Sec. 6.1). When USDA testing of lite mozzarella cheese is specified, DGB inspection personnel shall select samples and submit them to the USDA, Science and Technology Programs (S&TP) laboratory for analysis.
- Packaging requirements (Sec. 10 or as specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order).

12. REFERENCE NOTES.

12.1 USDA Certification Contacts.

12.1.1 USDA certification contact. For USDA certification, contact the **Branch Chief, DGB, DP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0230, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0230, telephone (202) 720-3171 or on the Internet at: www.ams.usda.gov/dairygrading.**

12.1.2 Analytical testing and technical information. For USDA technical information on analytical testing, contact the **Branch Chief, Technical Service Branch, S&TP, AMS, USDA, STOP 0272, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0272, telephone (202) 690-0621, or via E-mail: shirleyj.wright@usda.gov.**

12.1.3 CN meal pattern requirements contact. For CN crediting information, contact the **Head, Technical Assistance Section, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone (703) 305-2609 or on the Internet at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>.**

12.2 Sources of documents.

12.2.1 Sources of information for nongovernmental documents are as follows:

Copies of the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International may be obtained from: **AOAC International, 481 North Fredrick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417, telephone (301) 924-7077. Internet address: <http://www.aoac.org>.**

Copies of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products may be obtained from: **American Public Health Association, 800 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-3710, Book Orders, telephone (888) 320-2742, via E-mail: apha@pbd.com or on the Internet at: <https://secure.apha.org/source/orders/index.cfm>.**

12.2.2 Sources of information for governmental documents are as follows:

Applicable provisions of the: General Specifications for Dairy Plants Approved for USDA Inspection and Grading Service are contained in 7 CFR Part 58 Subpart B, the Child Nutrition Programs are contained in 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, and Appendices A and C; the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act are contained in 16 CFR Parts 500 to 503; and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is contained in 21 CFR Parts 1 to 199. These documents may be purchased from. **Superintendent of Documents, New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Credit card (MasterCard or Visa) purchases may be made by calling the Superintendent of Documents on (202) 512-1803 or on the Internet at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html> .**

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Copies of the General Specifications for Dairy Plants Approved for USDA Inspection and Grading Service, Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service, and DA INSTRUCTION 918-RL, Laboratory Methods and Procedures are available from: **Dairy Grading Branch, Dairy Programs, AMS, USDA, STOP 0230, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0230, telephone (202) 720-3171 or on the Internet at: www.ams.usda.gov/dairygrading.**

Yield information for lite mozzarella cheese is available in the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* available online at: <http://teammnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/foodbuyingguide.html>.

Copies of this CID, the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers, and beneficial comments, recommendations, additions, deletions, clarifications, etc. and any data which may improve this CID are available from and/or provided to. **Branch Chief, Processed Products Branch, , Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, STOP 0243, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0243, telephone (202) 720-9939, Fax (202) 690-1527, via E-mail. FQASstaff@usda.gov or on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/FQAS>.**

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