

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Change in Procurement Process for Peanut Butter

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) intends to purchase commercial quality peanut butter for use in its domestic feeding programs. Beginning November 16, 1998, CCC will no longer purchase peanut butter using USDA specifications. CCC will develop a qualified products list using samples received from contractors. Bids will only be accepted from contractors listed on the qualified products list.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 16, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy Reaman, Chief, Miscellaneous Product Branch, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri, 64114, telephone (816) 823-2832, fax (816) 823-4195; or Dean Jensen, Chief, Contract Management Branch, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0551, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-2115, fax (202) 690-1809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 16, 1998, CCC will begin purchasing standard retail commercial quality peanut butter with a history of consumer acceptance. Labels may be commercial brand name or generic labels; however, labels must comply with the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act requirements. Under this process, contractors will submit a representative sample of their product, in original packaging, to an independent third party laboratory for sensory and quality analysis. Peanut butter which is determined to be equivalent to or exceeds the quality which would be acceptable in the trade for a generic retail store brand, will be placed on an

qualified products list. Bids will only be accepted from this list. Any style of container may be used provided the seller complies with best commercial practices for handling, shipping, and storage of the containers. Contractors must submit a Certificate of Compliance (COC) as described in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 48 CFR part 46.315, and FAR clause 52.246-15, for each lot of product produced under contract. Commercial laboratories may be used for all analysis provided they are capable of performing all required tests, and use methods approved by the Association of Analytical Chemists (AOAC), and the American Oil Chemist Society (AOCS).

Suppliers will be audited under the guidelines of the Total Quality Systems Audit Program (TQSA). TQSA will serve as a method of verification that a supplier has met and continues to meet contract requirements and to verify accuracy of the contractor's COC. TQSA will include a review of documentation and records, onsite quality system audits, and product reviews both at the point of production and at destination.

Failure of suppliers to deliver a product of an equivalent quality from that which was evaluated by the sensory panel may constitute a cause for termination for default or provide cause for suspension or debarment from participation in Government procurement and other programs.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 20, 1998.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—7 CFR Part 235 State Administrative Expense Fund Regulations

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this Notice announces the Food and

Nutrition Service's (FNS) intention to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of the information collection related to State administrative expense funds, including the adjustments to be made as a result of the final rule, Food Distribution Program-Reduction of the Paperwork Burden.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, comments must be received by December 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Mr. Terry Hallberg, Chief, Program Analysis and Monitoring Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1008, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this Notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Hallberg at (703) 305-2590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR part 235, State Administrative Expense Funds Regulations.

OMB Number: 0584-0067.

Expiration Date: September 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with change of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-642) 42 U.S.C. 1776, authorizes the Department to provide Federal funds to State agencies (SAs) for administering the Child Nutrition Programs. 7 CFR part 235, State Administrative Expense