

TO: DSCP-HRAA (LeCollier /3625)

SUBJECT: ES04-042; Document Change; MIL-C-595E, Cheese Spread, Cheddar (Operational Ration Component); Portion Pac; MRE 24 contract; reduce salt level for Type III bacon cheese spread

Ref: SBCCOM email, 30 Jan 04, subject: MRE Bacon Cheese Spread

1. Based on the ref message, Portion Pac identified a discrepancy with the salt requirements for the Bacon Cheddar Cheese Spread as found in Amendment 1 of MIL-C-595E, Cheese Spread, Cheddar, Type III. Currently the salt levels have a lower limit of 3.0 percent and an upper limit of 3.7 percent. These figures were based on nutritional analysis of the field test product (salt levels ranging from 3.53 to 3.65 percent) completed by Woosdon-Tennent Laboratories.

2. Portion Pac is preparing to produce their first large scale production of the spread for MRE XXIV. They sent in PDM samples in Nov. 2003 which were found acceptable by Natick and which had a salt level of 2.1 percent as tested in house at Portion Pac. Ms Thompson re-tested several samples of the same PDM cheese spread recently and found great variation in the salt which ranged from 2.76 to 2.96 percent. She believes that this fluctuation is due to the uneven distribution of bacon from sample to sample.

3. Portion Pac requested that Natick change the salt requirements for the bacon cheese spread until more information can be obtained from larger productions of this product and methods can be put in place to control the variation. They suggest a broader range with a lower limit of 1.8 percent and an upper limit of 3.5 percent. Their target level is 2.2 percent.

4. Natick concurs with Portion Pac in changing the salt range from the current 3.0 to 3.7 to 1.8 lower limit to 3.5 upper limit. The lower salt limit will help meet the nutritional guidelines of the OTSG.

5. In order for the vendors product to be procured for MRE 24, Natick recommends that DSCP implement the change below for the MRE 24 option contract, pending and future procurements until the subject document is formally amended or revised.

Para 3.4.3 c: Delete second sentence "The salt contentfor Type III" and insert: " The salt content shall be not less than 1.8 percent nor greater than 3.5 percent for Type III."

6. A highlighted document file is not available at this time.

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