

or retard the growth of spoilage-type microorganisms in order to extend product shelf life for 7 years. Composition analyses for MRE's are covered by the reimbursable agreement in the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) between AMS, USDA and the Defense Personnel Support Center, Department of Defense (DOD). These DOD, Defense Personnel Support Center (DPSC) contracts state certain military specifications for an acceptable one meal serving, retorted pouched or 18-24 serving hermetically-sealed tray packed meat, or meal product regarding satisfactory analyses for fat, salt, protein, moisture content, added stabilizer ingredient, and sometimes microbiological composition. MRE's are for use by the DOD, DPSC as a component of operational food rations, and as an item of general issue by the military.

Meat. This includes the edible part of the muscle of any cattle, sheep, swine, or goats, which is skeletal or which is found in the tongue, in the diaphragm, in the heart, or in the esophagus, and which is intended for human food, with or without the accompanying and overlying fat, and the portions of bone, skin, tendon, nerve, and blood vessels which normally accompany the muscle tissue, and which are not separated from it in the process of dressing. It does not include the muscle found in the lips, snout, or ears. This term, as applied to products of equines, shall have a meaning comparable to that provided in this paragraph with respect to cattle, sheep, swine, and goats.

Meat food product. Any article capable for use as human food (other than meat, prepared meat, or a meat by-product), which is derived or prepared

wholly or in substantial part from meat or other portion of the carcass of any cattle, sheep, swine, or goats. An article exempted from definition as a meat food product by the Administrator, such as an organotherapeutic substance, meat juice, meat extract, and the like, which is used only for medicinal purposes and is advertised solely to the medical profession is not included.

Ready-to-eat. The term means consumers are likely to apply little or no additional heat to the fully-cooked and the fully-prepared food product before consumption.

Specifications. Descriptions with respect to the class, grade, other quality, quantity or condition of products, approved by the Administrator, and available for use by the industry regardless of the origin of the descriptions.

Tallow (Edible). The hard fat derived from USDA inspected and passed cattle, sheep, or goats.

Titer. The measure of the hardness or softness of the tested material as determined by the solidification point of fatty acids and expressed in degrees centigrade (°C).

§98.3 Analyses performed and locations of laboratories.

(a) Tables 1 through 4 list the special laboratory analyses rendered by the Science and Technology as a result of an agreement with the Livestock and Seed Division. The payment for such laboratory services rendered at the request of an individual or third party served shall be reimbursed pursuant to the terms as specified in the cooperative agreement.

TABLE 1—SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Identity	Analyses	Samples tested
Schedule BC (Beef Chunks, Canned)	Fat, salt	1
Schedule BJ (Beef with Natural Juices, Canned)	Fat	1
Schedule CS (Canned Meatball Stew)	Fat	3
Schedule GP (Frozen Ground Pork)	Fat	4
Schedule PJ (Pork with Natural Juices, Canned)	Fat	1
Schedule RB (Beef for Reprocessing)	Fat	4
Schedule RG (Beef Roasts and Ground Beef)	Fat	4
Schedule SB (Slab or Sliced Bacon)	Moisture, fat, salt	1
Schedule WS (Beef or Wafer Steaks)	Fat	1

TABLE 2—MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Type of analysis	Number of samples tested
Psychrotrophic Bacterial Plate Count	1

TABLE 3—NONSCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Identity	Analyses	Samples tested
Fed Specification PP-B-2120B (Ground Beef Products)	Fat	4
Fed Specification PP-B-81J (Sliced Bacon)	Fat, salt, moisture	1
Fed Specification PP-L-800E (Luncheon Meat, Canned)	Fat, salt	1
Ground Beef or Ground Pork	Fat	4
Ground Beef or Ground Pork	Fat	1
Pork Sausage	Fat, salt	4
Pork Sausage	Fat, moisture	4
Pork Sausage	Fat	4
Mil-P-44131A (Pork Steaks, Flaked, Formed, Breaded)	Fat	4
Milwaukee Public Schools (Breaded/Unbreaded Meat)	Fat	4
Chili Con Carne Without Beans	Fat	1
A-A-20047-B	Fat, protein	3
A-A-20136	salt	3
A-A-20148	Fat, salt	3
Mil-B-44133 (GL)	Fat, salt	3
Mil-B-44158A	Water activity	6
Mil-C-44253	Fat, salt	3
Mil-H-44159B (GL)	Fat, salt	1
PP-F-02154 (Army GL)	Fat, salt, moisture	1

TABLE 4—LARD AND TALLOW ANALYSIS

Type of analysis	Number of samples tested
Fat Analysis Committee (FAC) Color	1
Free Fatty Acids	1
Insoluble Impurities	1
Moisture and Volatile Matter	1
Specific Gravity	4 to 6
Titer Test	1
Unsaponifiable Material	1

(b) Meats, such as ground beef or ground pork, meat food products, and MRE's, not covered by an agreement with Livestock and Seed Division, are analyzed for fat, moisture, salt, sulfur dioxide, nitrites, sulfites, ascorbates, citric acid, protein, standard plate counts, and coliform counts, among other analyses. These food product analyses are performed at any one of the Science and Technology (S&T) field laboratories as follows:

- (1) USDA, AMS, Science and Technology, Midwestern Laboratory, 3570 North Avondale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618.
- (2) USDA, AMS, S&T Aflatoxin Laboratory, 107 South 4th Street, Madill, OK 73446.

- (3) USDA, AMS, S&T, Eastern Laboratory, 2311-B Aberdeen Boulevard, Gastonia, NC 28054.

[58 FR 42445, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 24325, May 10, 1994; 59 FR 50121, Sept. 30, 1994; 61 FR 51353, Oct. 2, 1996; 65 FR 64318, Oct. 26, 2000]

§ 98.4 Analytical methods.

(a) The majority of analytical methods used by the USDA laboratories to perform analyses of meat, meat food products and MRE's are listed as follows:

- (1) Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, Suite 500, 481 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417.