

(4) The feasibility of prequalifying suppliers' quality assurance systems and subsequently waiving certifications for future solicitations; and

(5) The cost of the inspections.

(c) When either the USDA or the Department of Commerce is indicated as the inspection activity, the solicitation will also provide that the contractor is responsible for:

(1) Arranging and paying for inspection services.

(2) Obtaining from the inspection activity a certificate indicating the product complies with specifications. Such certificate, or copy, should accompany the shipment or be furnished to the receiving installation prior to shipment. The contractor shall notify the installation when the certificate is not immediately available.

(3) Seeing that acceptable products are covered by an inspection agency checkloading certificate or stamped by the inspector as prescribed by the contracting officer. Products not so identified shall be rejected.

(4) Furnishing samples for inspection at his/her expense.

(5) Indicating the address where inspection will be made.

(d) The contracting officer will furnish a copy of the purchase document to the inspecting activity.

[49 FR 12625, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 51 FR 37027, Oct. 17, 1986; 54 FR 40065, Sept. 29, 1989; 63 FR 69222, Dec. 16, 1998]

**846.408-71 Waiver of USDA inspection and specifications.**

(a) Contracting officers may purchase butter; cheese (except cottage cheese); sausage; meat food products;<sup>1</sup> bacon, smoked; and bacon, Canadian style, without reference to the specifications in Part IV of the Federal Supply Catalog, Stock List, FSC Group 89, Subsistence, Publication No. C900-SL, and the USDA inspection requirements, when the amount of an item to be purchased will not exceed 500 pounds per delivery. When these items are procured to-

<sup>1</sup>Meat food products shall mean processed foods containing meat in substantial proportion and other listed ingredients including seasoning, e.g., frankfurters, coldcuts. Whole or prefabricated meats, e.g., pork chops, hamburger, are considered meats, not meat food products.

gether with items that are not exempt, the solicitation shall include the following:

Items \* \* \* are not required to be in accordance with the specifications contained in Part IV of the Federal Supply Catalog, Stock List, FSC Group 89, Subsistence, Publication No. C900-SL, and the special USDA inspection is not required. Inspection for quality and condition will be made by VA upon delivery at destination. These items are, however, subject to the quality controls stated herein.

(b) As appropriate, the following statements shall be included in each invitation for bid, request for proposal or purchase order:

(1) Butter. This product must be graded by the USDA and labeled "Grade A" or the grade specified herein.

(2) Sausage and meat food products:

(i) This product must be a high commercial product and shall have been prepared in a federally inspected plant and bear the USDA establishment number stamp which evidences that it is sound, healthful, wholesome and fit for human consumption; and

(ii) This product must bear a label complying with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act which requires that all ingredients be listed according to the order of their predominance.

(3) Bacon, smoked; and bacon, Canadian style. This product must be a high commercial product and shall have been prepared in a federally inspected plant and bear the USDA establishment number stamp which evidences that it is sound, healthful, wholesome, and fit for human consumption.

(c) When using a "brand name or equal" purchase description every brand name item that is known to be acceptable and available in the area will be listed.

[49 FR 12625, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 51 FR 37028, Oct. 17, 1986; 63 FR 69222, Dec. 16, 1998]

**846.470 Use of commercial organizations for inspections and grading services.**

Commercial organizations may be used for inspection and grading services when it is determined that the results of a technical inspection or grading are dependent upon the application