

December 2003

Overview

USDA's "Group B" Specifications and Standards Review

[Final Recommendations](#)

On November 19, 2003, senior managers from AMS, FNS, FSA, and FSIS, the four agencies that oversee operation of USDA's domestic commodity nutrition programs, approved [final recommendations](#) concerning a review of our "Group B" products. These are the flours, grains, peanut products, dairy products, oils, and shortenings that we offer through our nutrition assistance programs serving schools and needy households. The final recommendations are part of a USDA commodity improvement initiative to review all of our commodity specifications and bring them more in line with their commercial counterparts and our customer's needs.

During our review, we solicited comments from groups that participate in our programs including industry, State agencies, schools, and other recipient agencies. The comments we received addressed issues such as product size, packaging, nutrition composition, inspection, testing, food safety, and labeling. Our [final recommendations](#) are outlined in a chart that contains all of the comments received, as well as our response to them.

Thanks to all of you who took time to provide us with comments and feedback during this process. In the future we plan to review our commodities on an ongoing basis as the need arises to ensure that they continue to meet our customer's needs.

A summary of the final recommendations approved as part of the USDA commodity improvement initiative may be found on the FDD Website at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/caps/groupbspecs-finalrecs.pdf>.

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