



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

September 11, 2000

D&DOD-80

Farm and  
Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

Farm Service  
Agency

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**NOTICE TO THE TRADE  
READY-TO-EAT (RTE) CEREAL SUPPLIERS  
COMMERCIAL PACKAGING**

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will require that all fortified RTE cereals be packaged using commercial labels only, including the shipping containers. USDA packaging will no longer be accepted. Vendors supplying commercial product to CCC shall certify and fully demonstrate that the product being delivered has a history of successful distribution and use in the domestic commercial channels. All RTE cereals purchased shall be of standard retail commercial quality with a history of consumer acceptance. The product delivered shall comply with all applicable Federal and State mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, processing, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sale within the domestic commercial marketplace.

The Announcement FC6 will be amended to define the manufacturing/cooking process required for RTE cereals.

Vendors shall be audited and certified under the guidelines of the Total Quality Systems Audit Program (TQSA). TQSA will serve as a method of verification that a vendor has met and continues to meet contract requirements as specified in the Announcement FC6.

Commercial product requirements will commence with the issuance of the upcoming Invitation 560, dated November 3, 2000, for delivery periods January through March 2001.

Please contact Jan Wiggins at 816-926-2603, if you have any questions.

/s/ George W. Aldaya

George W. Aldaya  
Director