

Response to Questions received
Bid 083-EE03 – FRUIT JUICES

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- Can the opening date be extended?

The bid opening date has been extended to 4/12/2005.

- The last time that bids for this requirement were opened (January 16, 2003), the award was for one base year plus three option years. Why is the requirement being solicited again so soon?

In order to meet the District's changing needs, a decision was made to re-bid.

- At what approximate specific date will M-DCPS require the successful bidder to begin to perform under the contract to be awarded?

Shipments will begin as of date of award by the Board.

- We note that in the Bid Proposal Form (Format B), certain brands are approved, and bidders submitting other brands are instructed to submit a one (1) case sample, 4-oz size only. We believe that products submitted under Barrios Foods' brand should be included on the "approved" list, and the fact that they are not is only an oversight. The last time that bids for this requirement were opened, Barrios submitted samples for evaluation, exactly as specified. Because the samples that Barrios submitted were exactly as specified, we believe that they must have been determined to be acceptable, and that we therefore should not be required to submit samples again now. Are we correct?

The brands listed are approved for use in the District. Please provide samples as requested if your brand/item is not listed. Please see the attached revision to accepted Brands on the new Bidders Proposal Form.

- We recently have adopted technology that enables us to offer aseptically-processed juices to M-DCPS. This advance will enable M-DCPS, **cost-effectively**, to serve **juices that require no cold storage and that have a warranted shelf life of 180 days from date of manufacture**. The juices that M-DCPS has served to this point require refrigeration throughout the entire chain of distribution, and have a warranted shelf life of no more than 35 days from date of manufacture. The energy savings that M-DCPS would enjoy for this product category are tremendous. Additionally, in each school, M-DCPS would be able to free valuable cold storage space for items for which there is no alternative. **Can the specifications be amended to require all prospective bidders to aseptically process all 4-oz and 6-oz juices?** Alternatively, **can the specifications be amended to allow aseptically processed 4-oz and 6-oz juices to be considered?** In that scenario, how would M-DCPS factor the energy savings that

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would be attributable directly to aseptically processed products into its bid evaluations?

The specifications will not be changed. You can submit this as an alternate per Special Condition 3: SAMPLES or, new item per Special Condition 13: NEW FOOD ITEMS, to be considered as an addition to future bids

- The volumes in this solicitation would be the engine that would drive us to place packaging equipment into our aseptic processing facility in order to pack our juices into the pouches which have been so successful for M-DCPS . If M-DCPS amends its specifications to require aseptic processing, and wants to evaluate samples, then we absolutely can submit product consistent with the quality that has been specified and that we would provide, but not in the pouches on which we would base our bid response. Would this approach be acceptable to M-DCPS?

Specifications are not being amended to require aseptically-processed juices. Be reminded that when samples are submitted for products to be considered, they are to be submitted as a case, labeled and packaged, as they will be delivered to the District, if awarded.

- Orange Juice: The calcium content of 133mg for 4oz and 200mg for 6oz. The product you are currently getting under the approved product number provides 151.9mg Calcium for 4oz and 226mg Calcium for 6oz.

*The requirements are the **minimum** that will be accepted by the District.*

- Apple Juice: The vitamin C minimum content has changed from 60mg (Bid 006-CC03) to 20mg. Also you are requesting the same Calcium content has the Orange Juice. The current Apple Juice product that Dade County has been using under the approved product ID number for this bid is not Calcium fortified.

*There are currently **no** approved brands for this item since the District has revised specifications. All vendors must submit samples for review. See the attached new Bid Proposal Form.*

- Fruit Blend: The vitamin C content you are requesting is 20mg. Last bid (Bid 006-CC03) did not require Vitamin C fortification for this product. Also you are requesting the same Calcium content has the Orange Juice. The current Fruit Blend Juice product that Dade County has been using under the approved product ID number for this bid is not Calcium fortified.

*There are currently **no** approved brands for this item since the District has revised specifications. All vendors must submit samples for review. See the attached new Bid Proposal Form.*

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- Grape Juice: The vitamin C minimum content has changed from 60mg (Bid 006-CC03) to 20mg. Also you are requesting the same Calcium content has the Orange Juice. The current Grape Juice product that Dade County has been using under the approved product ID number for this bid is not Calcium fortified.

*There are currently **no** approved brands for this item since the District has revised specifications. All vendors must submit samples for review. See the attached new Bid Proposal Form.*

- Orange/Pineapple: You are requesting the same Calcium content has the Orange Juice. The current Orange/Pineapple Juice product that Dade County has been using under the approved product ID number for this bid is not Calcium fortified.

*There are currently **no** approved brands for this item since the District has revised specifications. All vendors must submit samples for review. See the attached new Bid Proposal Form.*

- Packing: Last bid (006-CC03) stated “Orange Juice Packaging to contain the Florida Citrus Grower’s Symbol. The new bid does not state this. Florida Orange Juice has been a Dade County preference for many years and have supported the Florida Growers in the past.

The Florida Growers Symbol is not a requirement of this bid.