

ITB REFERENCE: 2023/ITB/035

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:

LOT 1:

HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC BUCKET 14 L, RECYCLED (FOODGRADE)

AND/OR

LOT 2:

HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC BUCKET, 14L, WITH TAP,  
RECYCLED (FOOD-GRADE)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DATE:22/12/2023

No.	Questions	Answers
1	<p>Material: Can we add colored recycle materials in lid, handle, or bucket body? As normally, recycled plastic is available in different colors.</p>	<p>The inclusion of small portions of colored recycled material is acceptable.</p> <p>The <b>lid and handle</b>: can have any color that is not prohibited in Annex A and mentioned below.</p> <p><b>Prohibited colors for bucket body, lid and handle</b>: No black, red, military/camouflaged colours. No drawings.</p> <p>The <b>bucket body</b> needs to be light enough for the user to identify the level of liquid inside of it.</p> <p>White is acceptable in the bucket body, if the recycled material (pre-consumer or post-consumer) is available without adding any color pigmentation. However, as it is difficult to obtain recycled material of pure white color, the inclusion of small portions of colored recycled material is acceptable.</p>
2	<p>Stackability: Please remove this point from the specifications (Annex A1) as it is not related to the buckets. It is actually related to 10 L jerry can where screw cap is used. For buckets tight fitting lid is required with push-on cap as it is mentioned in the Lid section.</p>	<p>The specifications about stackability will be replaced as follows: "An opening in the lid of at least 50 mm diameter, with a matching cap for filling/discharge. The cap should be held with a retaining strap. No leakage should occur when filled up to the top with water and after 10 minutes in an upside-down position."</p>
3	<p>UV Test: In the standard (ASTM 4329-13), some parameters are undefined which has to be decided between the parties by mutual understanding, so in that perspective we need to finalize the following things: Exposure Time: What will be the UV exposure time.? Keep in mind that the buckets are exposed to sun light for very less time during its service life. Testing Parameter for UV: Please confirm what parameter will be tested before &amp; after UV exposure? As it is not clarified in Annex-A &amp; in ASTM-4329-13.</p>	<p>Cycle A (general applications) from ASTM D4329-13 should be used.</p> <p>The number of cycles should be calculated based on the required service life of a bucket – 2 years and considering that a bucket exposed under UV in average of 2 hours per day. So, an estimated exposure time under the sun will be: <math>2 \times 365 \times 2 = 1\ 460</math> h. However, samples can be subjected to accelerated UV testing in a UV testing lab, which can artificially recreate a long period of time under UV radiation in a short and convenient timescale. The exact time of accelerated UV testing will depend on the UV testing equipment available in a certain laboratory, and consequently should be calculated by the laboratory.</p> <p>Additional mechanical testing after the UV exposure test is not requested. It will be enough if the laboratory provides a report with the comparison of a sample before and after UV exposure, an evaluation of the colour change of the sample, and the appearance of possible visible defects (such as cracks, voids, etc.).</p>

4	<p>Manufactured Marking</p> <p>Can we engrave the information on the Lid cover? As this is the most sustainable option because it doesn't involve any inks, chemicals or electricity.</p>	<p>According to the specifications, the manufacturing marking should be made on the bucket, not the lid. The reason is that the lid could be lost or broken during use, so at the end of life it will be impossible to identify its material composition.</p>
5	<p>Testing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Durability: How it can be assessed? Is there any testing involved to check the durability?</li> <li>2. Handle: How much force has to be exerted for repeated load test, side load test and dynamic load test?</li> <li>3. Flexibility Test: After pressing the bucket, it will not get back exactly to its original position therefore, there must be some tolerance like <math>\pm 10\%</math> of its original size.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Durability:</b> there is no specific test report to be provided with the offer, however, buckets will be assessed in the field conditions during their operation.</li> <li>2. <b>Handle:</b> the following field tests will be performed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 <i>Handle bending test:</i> Bend the handle 100 times. It should resist without damages.</li> <li>2.2 <i>Handle traction test:</i> Hang the bucket from the handle for 5 minutes with 28 kg inside. Bucket should resist without damage.</li> <li>2.3 <i>Handle folding test:</i> Check that the flat handle is well fixed. The handle must resist folding flat on the cover, push on left end and push on right end.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Flexibility test:</b> The specifications about flexibility test will be replaced as follows: The bucket must return to its original shape, with a tolerance of <math>\pm 10\%</math> of its original diameter after one hour without damage after applying pressure on the two sides of the top rim to make them touch one another in the middle.</li> </ol>
6	<p>As per the tech specs Annex A1 regarding colour of the buckets, it is mentioned "bucket needs to be light enough for the user to identify the level of liquid inside it visually. No black, red or white colour. No military / camouflaged colors. No additional colour pigmentation and design elements". However as per the photograph in the technical specs file A1, we can see a white colored bucket with a red / blue colored handle and lid.</p> <p>Hence clarification is required if colour pigmentation is required or not.</p>	<p>The image in Annex A is for reference purposes.</p> <p>No color pigmentation shall be added in the bucket body, lid, and handle. White is acceptable in the bucket body, if the recycled material (pre-consumer and post-consumer) is available without adding any color pigmentation.</p> <p><b>Prohibited colors for bucket body, lid and handle:</b> No black, red, military/camouflaged colours. No drawings. The inclusion of small portions of colored recycled material is acceptable.</p>
7	<p>Bucket handle: Is it OK to use the original plastic bucket handle? We can use 100% recycled materials</p>	<p>Answered in "clarification"</p> <p>The plastic part of the handle does not need to be food-grade; however, it should ideally be 100% recycled plastic and no colorants added.</p>

8	Bucket lid: Keep the original lid (push up instead of screw), we will make the small cap meet the requirements by putting gaskets in the small cap (fill the water upside down for 10min and the small cap does not leak), if so, is it OK? Because if we want to change the screw cap, we need to make new mold, which may cause problems in time.	No screwable cap is needed. The bucket shall include a clipped cover and a cap that is attached to the keep the original lid.  We will make the needed correction in the technical specification.
9	Add recycled materials (whether before or after consumption), there will be black or yellow spots on the product. Is it acceptable?	Yes, it is acceptable that the bucket contains recycled plastic with small colored inclusions on its surface.
10	Kindly let us know for lab report which lab UNHCR has approved so that we can get the samples tested?	In the specification there is a list with the required lab test/s – The selected lab must be internationally certified to perform those tests (E.g.: ASTM D4329 or ISO 4892-3. UNHCR reserves the right to conduct its own laboratory tests whenever it deems appropriate.
11	If a supplier of buckets has lab report approved by INDIAN lab can that be sufficient, or an internationally recognized lab report is mandatory?	The selected lab must be internationally certified to perform those tests (E.g.: ASTM D4329 or ISO 4892-3. UNHCR reserves the right to conduct its own laboratory tests whenever it deems appropriate.
12	In attached Annex A2- Stackability, it is mentioned “An opening in the lid of at least 50 mm diameter, with a matching screw cap for filling/discharge. The screw cap should be held with a retaining strap. No leakage should occur when filled up to the top with water and after 10 minutes in an upside-down position.”	The specifications about stackability have been replaced as follows: "An opening in the lid of at least 50 mm diameter, with a matching cap for filling/discharge. The cap should be held with a retaining strap. No leakage should occur when filled up to the top with water and after 10 minutes in an upside-down position."
13	In the graphical representation, the bucket is with push clip cover. Kindly confirm whether the existing Bucket with push clip cover is needed or is it required with screwable cap and retaining strap.	No screwable cap is needed. The bucket shall include a clipped cover and a cap that is attached to the lid.  We will make the needed correction in the technical specification.
14	As per criteria in attached Annex B2, A. Environment, 1. Material Composition, kindly advise what factors shall be checked/verified by the third party.	It is necessary to verify that recycled material is incorporated in the manufacturing process of the item.
15	Do we have to submit 5 pcs sample of each lot if participating in both the lots?	5 samples are required to be provided for each item offered.
16	Can we submit the sample of red and white colour combination instead of blue as per the below picture. Is it acceptable? – covered by Q1	The picture in the technical specifications is for reference purposes only. The samples need to be the same as the expected final product, please follow the instructions on the colour requirements.

17	Please note mold making would require 60 Days minimum, therefore we also request you to <b>please extend the deadline of submission to 15th February 2024.</b>	There is no need to change the lid cap. Please refer to answer no. 8. Further to that extension for submission deadline of samples and bids extended until 15 February 2024, as per the extension letter.
18	Bucket belt: Is it possible to use the original plastic bucket belt? (Please refer to the attached photo). We could use 100% recycled materials for production.	It is the bidder's decision where to source the materials. It is preferable that the material is recycled (pre-consumer and/or post-consumer) as long as it is food-grade and ensures the quality and usability requirements of the product. It is important that there is a verification process that guarantees that the product contains recycled material in the manufacturing process.
19	Bucket lid: We plan to use the original lid (the small cap is tucked in, not screwed), and we will use padding or other methods to make the small hat meet the requirements (filled with water and inverted for 10 minutes, the small cap will not leak). Is this possible? Because if we want to change it to a screwed cap, we need to reopen the mold, and there may be some time issues.	No screwable cap is needed. Please refer to Correction of Annex A1 under technical specifications (stackability).
20	Laboratory Testing: We wish to confirm the acceptability of testing methods/standards provided by internationally recognized laboratories. Due to potential limitations in testing methods, there may be instances where not all required tests outlined in the specification sheet can be conducted. Your guidance on whether such circumstances would be acceptable is appreciated.	The tests required in the technical specifications are to ensure that the quality of products offered by bidders are in line with UNHCR standards. Failure to submit the laboratory certificates/reports in compliance with the instructions given in the solicitation documents may result in disqualification of the offer.
21	Composition of Material: Could you please advise on the significance of the composition of recycled material in the evaluation process? For instance, will a bidder incorporating a higher percentage of recycled material receive a more favorable evaluation compared to one utilizing only 30% recycled material, all else being equal?	Preference will be given to products with higher percentage of recycled material, specially to those products which contain post-consumer material. The higher the percentage the higher the score. Post-consumer material is priority as it helps to reduce the amount of plastic going to landfills, help companies reduce their carbon footprint and eliminate the need to use fossil fuels as a raw material.
22	For the UV testing protocol, kindly confirm the laboratory can proceed with an exposure time of 1,000 hours and physical degradation of the bucket specimen after exposure. Would this be acceptable by UNHCR?	Please refer to Answer to Question no. 3

23	<p>There is a typo error in specifications files Annex A1 and A2 in the following point, that it should it be "clip-on cap" instead of screw cap in accordance with the existing specifications. "An opening in the lid of at least 50 mm diameter, with a matching screw cap for filling/discharge. The screw cap should be held with a retaining strap. No leakage should occur when filled up to the top with water and after 10 minutes in an upside-down position."</p>	<p>Please refer to Correction in Amendments.</p>
24	<p>Is it possible to submit our financial offer based on the estimates of required items, as requested to enable the consideration of our offer. Upon being successful evaluated to be supplier we could facilitate the production of these buckets; as the creation of bucket molds incurs costs, and we seek your guidance on whether UNHCR would consider such an approach.</p>	<p>Please refer to Cover letter 2.4.2 Content of the FINANCIAL OFFER. UNHCR is expecting to receive firm unit prices by filling Annex C- Financial offer form. Furthermore, please refer to Cover letter 2.4.1.5 Product sample: "Failure to submit samples before the given deadline and in compliance with above instructions may result in disqualification of the offer."</p>
25	<p>A) We are a company registered in Turkey, but we are planning to offer the goods made in another country, such as China or Pakistan. Can we offer EXW price from China or Pakistan? B) How many pieces are you planning to procure annually? C) Are the PO's going to be monthly or weekly or once in 6 months etc. or unclear?</p>	<p>A) Please refer to Cover letter 2.4.2 Content of the FINANCIAL OFFER: "Unit costs: The bidder shall quote the product unit price for both EXW and FCA (factory/sea/dry port and airport) Incoterms naming the locations respectively". B) Please see estimated quantity at Cover letter 1. Requirements: "The estimated annual requirement of UNHCR is for 1,000,000 Buckets." C) Please note that the estimated purchase figures are presented for bidders to have an indication of the projected requirements. It does not represent a commitment that UNHCR will require the totality of the above quantity. Quantities may vary and will depend on the actual needs and funds available regulated by the issuance of individual Purchase Orders against the Frame Agreement.</p>
26	<p><b>Drop test for the Bucket with Tap:</b> It is required that the bucket with tap has to be tested by dropping it from 2m height. Actually, there is already a hole on one side of the bucket for the installation of tap which acts as the weakest point from where the crack will initiate. Therefore, there must be exemption on this test for this type of bucket OR failure from that hole should be considered as Passed.</p>	<p><b>In the case of buckets with a tap, the drop test should be done without an installed tap. In the event the bucket already has a hole, then the bidder is requested to provide to the laboratory a bucket made of the same material and the same technology but without the hole for conducting a drop test.</b></p>

AMENDMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO THE SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS

**Clarifications:**

1.	Clarification of Annex A1 under technical specifications (material)	<p>The bucket and the lid can be made of a mixture of virgin and recycled <b>food-grade plastic</b> which can be from pre-consumer and/or post-consumer material.</p> <p>Pre-consumer refers to industrial material or material generated during the manufacturing process Post-consumer refers to material that comes from products after being consumed.</p>
2.	<p><b>Clarification of Stackability:</b></p> <p>a) There must be a tolerance in the lid opening as 50mm ± 10%, for filling and discharge. It is already written on the same page in “Lid Section” in Annex A1 &amp; Annex A2.</p> <p>b) It is required that no leakage should occur when filled up to the top with water and after 10 minutes in an upside-down position. However, it is dependent on the design of the lid cover that is screwable lid cover and screwable push-on cap (without retaining strap) or having some sealing rubber ring inside it to stop the water leakage (that needs certain R&amp;D to find the right design OR may be new molds as well).</p> <p>In addition, during normal usage of the bucket, it is placed vertically with lid cover on the top but not in the upside-down direction. So, in that sense, there is no need to test the bucket for leakage as it is not the way of using bucket. For Lid Quality Testing, there is already one test where the bucket is pushed on one side to check the grip of lid cover on bucket (Requirement: Lid should not open when it falls on side)</p>	<p><b>Stackability: this requirement shall be replaced as follows: The buckets shall be stackable, and their shape shall allow each bucket to be easily removed from the stack.</b></p> <p><b>This is just a correction of text in the specification, that does not change the sample, nor the tests required to be conducted.</b></p>

**Amendments:**

i.	Correction of Annex A1 under technical specifications (colour)	The technical specifications for colour shall be amended and read as follows: Considering that sustainable materials are accepted, the product's colour can be natural. The bucket itself needs to be light enough for the user to identify the level of liquid inside it visually. No black or red. No military/camouflaged colours. No drawings. No additional colour pigmentations and design element. The inclusion of small portions of colored recycled material is acceptable.
ii.	Correction of Annex A1 under technical specifications (stackability)	The technical specifications for stackability shall be amended and read as follows: An opening in the lid of at least 50 mm diameter, with a matching cap for filling/discharge. The cap should be held with a retaining strap. No leakage should occur when filled up to the top with water and after 10 minutes in an upside-down position
iii.	Correction of Annex A1 under testing	The information of flexibility test shall be amended and read as follows: The bucket must return to its original shape, with a tolerance of +/- 10% of its original diameter after one hour without damage after applying pressure on the two sides of the top rim to make them touch one another in the middle.