



DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT CENTER
1300 EISENHOWER AVENUE
FORT LEE, VIRGINIA 23801-1800

MSN

March 12, 2026

NOTICE TO THE TRADE – DeCA NOTICE 26 – 84

SUBJECT: Category Review Notification – Candy Non-Chocolate

The purpose of this notice is to advise Industry the Sales Directorate will begin the category review for Candy Chocolate in April 2026. In accordance with Notice to the Trade 26-84 - Calendar Year 2026 Category Review Schedule, DeCA will begin leveraging the Category Captains and Validators model.

Category Captain Supplier/Broker: MARS/ADVANTAGE
Category Validator Broker: HERSHEY/OSCWEB

Appointments/Presentations will be held on April 20th – 24th, 2026. Appointment requests must be submitted no later than April 3rd, 2026.

All files larger than 5 MB should be uploaded to the DoD SAFE at the following website: <https://safe.apps.mil>. This review is open for current and potential new vendors seeking business opportunities with DeCA. The attached template identifies the categories to be reviewed, category review objectives, and relevant information.

Questions regarding this review and appointment requests may be directed to Loretta Williams, Merchandising Specialist, at Loretta.williams@deca.mil or 804-734-8000 extension 86135.

Robert B. Culbreth
Director of Sales, Non-Fresh

Attachments:
As stated

CATEGORY PLAN

Category:

Universe of Items Included (e.g. D/C/G codes) :

CANDY NON - CHOCOLATE

Planogram Name / Number*:

01055

*Category definition based on current and previous published planograms (to include items that have been phased out).

Regional items (Include / Exclude):

Exclude

Optional items (Include / Exclude):

Include

One-time buy/seasonal items (Include / Exclude):

Include

Club packs (Include / Exclude):

Include

Category Segmentation (if different than D/C/G codes identified above):

Category Evaluation Month (MM/YYYY):

April 2024

Date Last Completed (MM/YYYY):

Category Manager:

Loretta Williams

Implementation / Scorecard to be Managed by:

Loretta Williams

Category Role (e.g. Destination, Routine, Convenience) :

Impulse

Marketing Strategy:

To be determined by Industry/DeCA during Evaluation. Discussion to include, but not limited to, topics below:

Number of Promotions Per Year:

Yes

Seasonal Promotions?:

Yes

Theme Event?

Yes

Method (i.e. Mandate):

Category Objectives:

Increase sales and units for the category by using retail best practices and optimize variety while meeting pack out

Special Factors/Notes:

Focus on new innovation while maintaining the top sellers, discuss base cost concerns ad margin

(Examples - Focus on emerging category trends, new item introductions, consumer segmentation...)

Evaluation Criteria:

Current Category POG Size (in Linear Feet):

K4 (e.g. 12ft)

16ft and above

K3 (e.g. 12ft)

12ft

K2 (e.g. 12ft)

4ft, 8ft

K1 (e.g. 8ft)

Preferred Period Ending for Data (MM/YYYY):

MAY 2026

Preferred Timeframe for Data (e.g 26 Weeks)

13 and 52 weeks

Data - Geography (e.g. Worldwide, ConUS)

CONUS excluding AK/HI

Primary Ranking of Data (Packages, Dollars)

Patron Savings/Dollars/Units

Secondary Ranking of Data (Packages, Dollars):

ACV

Comparison Retail Market (e.g. All Other Channels**, Remaining Markets)

RM and/or xAOC

Review Milestones

NTT Release

March 2026

Vendor Presentations

April 20 - 24, 2026

Results Published

May 8, 2026

New Item Start Date

May 15, 2026

New Items in Distributor by

June 16, 2026

POG's Published

June 29, 2026

Store Resets Start

July 6, 2026

Comments