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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

DENNIS FLORER,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
CHERYL JOHNSON-BALES, *et al.*,  
  
Defendants.

No. C06-5561 RJB/KLS  
  
ORDER DENYING IN PART AND  
GRANTING IN PART PLAINTIFF’S  
MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY  
REQUEST NO. 10

Before the court is Plaintiff’s Motion to Compel Discovery Request No. 10. Dkt. 218. Defendants oppose the motion, arguing that they have fully answered the discovery. Dkt. 241. Plaintiff has filed a reply. Dkt. 252.

**DISCUSSION**

Pursuant to Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, parties may obtain discovery of relevant information. Relevant information is defined as information that is “reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The Court may deny relevant discovery, however, if the “burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(iii). After careful review of the discovery requests, the objections stated, and argument of the parties, the Court finds that the motion to compel should be denied in part and granted in part, as follows:

1  
2 **A. Plaintiff's Request for Production No. 4**

3 On July 20, 2009, Defendants received from Plaintiff a discovery request entitled  
4 "Discovery Request No. 10 To Defendant J. Jackson Request For Production." Dkt. 241, Exh.  
5 1, ¶ 2. On August 6, 2009, Defendant Jackson served Plaintiff with his responses and objections  
6 to this request. *Id.*, Exh. 1, Attach. A. On September 6, 2009, the parties engaged in a discovery  
7 conference regarding Defendants' responses to this discovery. *Id.*, Exh. 1, Attach. B.

8  
9 Plaintiff's requests for production numbers 2 and 4 are nearly identical.<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff's  
10 request for production number 4 requested the following:

11 As to Request for Production No. 3 above, produce a hard copy of the data along  
12 with the underlying sources, including a hard copy of the computer programs that  
13 were used to perform the menu Template Nutrient Analysis and menu Template  
Report on the 2008 mainline menu.

14 *Id.*, Exh. 1, Attach. A. Defendant Jackson responded to this request, stating:

15 This request is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible  
16 evidence. Moreover, this request seeks documents and items that are irrelevant to  
17 the claims in Plaintiff's complaint. Additionally, this request is compound and  
18 seeks items that are not in Defendant's care, control, or custody. Furthermore, this  
request is vague and confusing as to the terms "data" and "template" and  
confusing as to what documents are being sought.

19 *Id.* According to Defendants, they have provided Plaintiff with all information regarding the  
20 "underlying data" for the nutrient analysis in response to his "Discovery Request No. 15  
21 Supplement [Sic] To No. 9 To Dfts J. Jackson Interrogatory And Request For Production." In  
22 Plaintiff's interrogatory/request for production number 10 in his Discovery Request 15, he asked  
23 the following:  
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26  

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<sup>1</sup> Although Plaintiff's motion refers to "RFP No.'s [sic] 2 n 4", his argument refers only to the items sought in Request for Production No. 4.

1 You used the term “data” “entry”, what is this “data” the teenager “entered” or  
2 did not enter or altered and who verified the teenagers “data entry”? Produce the  
3 “data” prior to “entry” by the high school intern, as to the 2008 kosher, Passover,  
4 fast sack, and mainline menus, including any updates.

5 Dkt. 241, Exh. 1, Attach. C. Defendant Jackson responded to this request, stating:

6 Without waiving the above objections, the data entered by the “teenager”  
7 consisted of recipes, products, and portion size for menu items. The final product  
8 is the nutritional analysis for each menu. See documents previously produced at  
9 DEFS 953 – DEFS 1726; DEFS 10483 – DEFS 10556; and DEFS 10870 – DEFS  
10 10901.

11 *Id.* Defendant Jackson also provided a supplemental response to Plaintiff’s request, stating:

12 Without waiving the above objections, Defendant Jackson verified the data  
13 entered by the “teenager” with final approval from Diane Benfield. Most of the  
14 recipes used by DOC are already in Computrition. If a recipe needs to be changed  
15 in some way, this is done electronically in Computrition and the new recipe is  
16 saved over the old recipe. On rare occasions a recipe needed was not in  
17 Computrition. In those circumstances, Defendant Jackson would either use a  
18 military recipe or create the recipe from scratch working with one of the Food  
19 Managers. Once the recipe was created, the information was inputted into  
20 Computrition. There are no documents for these created recipes as after the  
21 handwritten notes were inputted into Computrition they were discarded.  
22 Defendant Jackson was able to locate some recipes from 2008, however these  
23 recipes were printed directly from Computrition and were not ones entered by the  
24 “teenager.” See documents produced at DEFS 12857 – DEFS 13314.

25 Dkt. 241, Exh. 1, Attach. D.

26 Plaintiff seeks the “underlying sources” and a hard copy of the computer programs that  
were used to perform the MNAR’s. Dkt. 218, p. 4. He argues that this evidence is obviously  
material to this case. *Id.* Defendants objected to this request on the grounds that it is vague and  
confusing as Defendants are unclear what Plaintiff is seeking. Dkt. 241, Exh. 1, Attach. A. In  
addition, according to Defendants, they have provided Plaintiff with a complete answer as to the  
source of the data used in the nutrient analysis and they have provided Plaintiff with copies of  
the existing data that was still in the possession of Defendant Jackson. Dkt. 241, Exh. 1, Attachs.

C-D. As to Plaintiff’s request for a “a hard copy of the computer programs that were used to

1 perform the menu Template Nutrient Analysis and menu Template Report[s],” Defendant  
2 Jackson states that he cannot produce the software as neither he nor the Department of  
3 Corrections own the software. Dkt. 241, Exh. 2. Rather, the DOC merely has a license to use  
4 the copyrighted software and reproducing the software is a violation of federal copyright law.  
5 *Id.*, Exh. 2, ¶ 2; citing 17 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103, 106, 301; RCW 42.56.270. Defendants further  
6 argue that the software itself is not relevant to the claims made by Plaintiff as the software itself  
7 does not tend to make any fact more or less likely to be true. Dkt. 241, p. 4,  
8

9 The record reflects that Plaintiff has been provided with an answer as to the source of the  
10 data and given copies of the existing data. In addition, the court finds that the software program  
11 is not relevant to the claims raised by Plaintiff in this case.

12 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(1), parties may obtain discovery of  
13 relevant information. Relevant information is defined as information that is “reasonably  
14 calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). Plaintiff’s  
15 request for the software program is not relevant to his claims in this case, i.e., that the Kosher  
16 and mainline menus are nutritionally deficient, as the software itself not tend to make that fact  
17 more or less likely true. Thus, Plaintiff’s motion to compel request for production No. 4 shall be  
18 denied.  
19

20 **B. Requests for Production Nos. 5 and 6**

21 Plaintiff’s request for production number 5 requested that Defendant Jackson, “[p]roduce a  
22 mainline alladen IMU tray.” Dkt. 241, Exh. 1, Attach. A. Defendant Jackson responded to this  
23 request, stating:  
24

25 This request is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible  
26 evidence. Moreover, this request seeks items that are irrelevant to the claims raised in  
Plaintiff’s complaint. Additionally, this request is overbroad and unduly burdensome  
as it fails to specify a time frame. Furthermore, this request is vague as to the term  
“alladen.”

1 *Id.*

2 Plaintiff's request for production number 6 requested that Defendant Jackson, "Produce a  
3 mainline current IMU tray, one hot tray and one cold tray." Exhibit 1, Attachment A. Defendant  
4 Jackson responded to this request, stating:  
5

6 This request is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible  
7 evidence. Moreover, this request seeks items that are irrelevant to the claims raised in  
8 Plaintiff's complaint. Additionally, this request is overbroad and unduly burdensome  
9 as it fails to specify a time frame. Furthermore, this request is compound.

10 *Id.*

11 Plaintiff states that he seeks different models of IMU trays from "CBCC, WCC, i.e. the  
12 alladen tray and extra small hot n cold trays. And from SCCC the regular size hot n cold trays."  
13 Dkt. 218, 5. Plaintiff argues that the trays are material to show that Defendants' menu items and/or  
14 serving amounts of the menu items do not fit on the IMU trays. Dkt. 218, p. 5. He also states that  
15 Defendant Jackson mentioned the "Aladdin trays" in his deposition on October 20, 2006, and  
16 described them as the "old six compartment trays" as opposed to the three compartment trays. Dkt.  
17 252, p. 4.

18 The serving size of the menu items are arguably related to Plaintiff's claim that the menus are  
19 nutritionally inadequate. Accordingly, the court finds that the Plaintiff's motion to compel request  
20 for productions Nos. 5 and 6 is granted as to the trays used while Plaintiff was receiving the 2006 and  
21 2008 menus made the subject of his complaint. See, Dkt. 190, pp. 14, 16. At a minimum, the  
22 Defendants may provide photos of the trays used and a listing of dimensions as opposed to providing  
23 actual trays.

24 **C. Request for Production Nos. 7 through 9**

25 Plaintiff's requests for production numbers 7, 8, and 9 requested the production of the  
26 "premade dinner meals that are listed for dinner" on the 2004, 2006, and 2008 kosher menus. Exhibit

1, Attachment A. Defendant Jackson responded to each of these requests with the following objection:

This request is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Additionally, this request is irrelevant and compound. Moreover, the dinner meals from the 2004 [, 2006, and 2008] kosher menu are no longer in the Defendant's care, control, or custody.

*Id.* Defendant filed this discovery request in 2009. The meals made available on the menu in 2004, 2006, and 2008 were not available in 2009. Dkt. 241, p. 5. Further, Defendants argue that even assuming these meals were available, producing meals that were prepared two to six years later would be of no use to the trier of fact. *Id.* Defendants further argue that the old meals themselves do not make any fact more or less probable and, even if they did, there is a substantial danger of unfair prejudice as a result of the meals being years old. ER 401; ER 402. Additionally, the nutritional value of the meals has no relevance to their taste or their "consumability" – either they have nutritional value or they do not, regardless of taste or appearance. *Id.*

Plaintiff alleges that "these particular type of K premade dinners dfts [sic] use are material because these duplicative objects hold no nutritional value as they are non-consumable and should be perceived by the Judge or Jury's own perception." Dkt. 218, p. 6.

Defendant Jackson responded that the Kosher dinners listed on the 2004, 2006 and 2008 menus are no longer available. As such, Defendant Jackson properly objected to the request and the motion to compel request for production Nos. 7 through 9 are denied.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED**:

1) Plaintiff's motion to compel (Dkt. 218) is **DENIED, except as to Request for Production Nos. 5 and 6**; at a minimum, Defendants shall produce photos of the trays with a list of the dimensions. Defendants shall supplement their production to these requests **on or before March 5, 2010**.

