



December 3, 2020

Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314

SUBJECT: Informational Memorandum: Use of Manufacturer-Provided Nutrition Information to Determine WIC Food Item Eligibility

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
MARO, MPRO, MWRO, NERO, SERO, SWRO, and WRO

WIC State Agency Directors
All WIC State Agencies

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS/Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs
Title of Document:	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program) Informational Memorandum: Use of Manufacturer-Provided Nutrition Information to Determine WIC Food Item Eligibility
Document ID:	N/A
Z-RIN:	N/A
Date of Issuance:	December 3, 2020
Replaces:	N/A
Summary:	This memorandum provides information to assist WIC State Agencies in ensuring WIC supplemental foods on the State Approved Product List (APL) meet the minimum Federal nutrition requirements and specifications at 7 CFR 246.10(e)(12), Table 4 and its footnotes and WIC Policy Memorandum #2015-3.
Disclaimer:	The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Body of guidance document follows.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) strives to provide the best possible customer service to program partners and participants. In response to requests from program stakeholders, this memorandum provides information to assist Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) State Agencies in ensuring WIC supplemental foods on the State Approved Product List (APL) meet the minimum Federal nutrition requirements and specifications at 7 CFR 246.10(e)(12), Table 4 and its footnotes and WIC Policy Memorandum #2015-3, Eligibility of White Potatoes for Purchase with the Cash-Value Voucher.

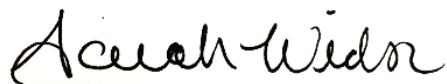
FNS recommends WIC State agencies use the nutrition information the manufacturer provides with the food item eligibility request, rather than the Nutrition Facts Label. While the use of Nutrition Facts Label information is allowable, recent changes in Labeling are intended to guide the consumers' food selections and may not accurately enable the determination of the minimum requirements and specifications of WIC-eligible products.

In cases where WIC food item eligibility is difficult or impossible to determine, WIC State agencies should request additional documentation from the manufacturer that certifies the actual nutritional content and ingredients meet Federal WIC requirements (e.g., for vitamin C, iron, sodium, sugar).

WIC Food Package Policy and Guidance (March 2018) provides additional guidance on determining eligibility of WIC foods (Chapter 3).

State agencies may direct any questions to their respective FNS Regional Offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Widor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SARAH WIDOR
Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division