

FAQs for LAs and Vendors November 17, 2009

Cereal

Honey Kix - can clients opt to get regular Kix? Lower in sugar and whole grain as well

Regular Kix is no longer on the food list and is not allowed at this time. Allowing clients to purchase an item that is not on the current list, even if the product meets USDA standard of identity, could cause and/or exacerbate confusion for both clients and cashiers. Honey Kix helps the state meet the requirement that 51% of approved cereals must be whole grain. Whole grain must be the first ingredient. Regular Kix does not meet this criteria. Honey Kix meets USDA's specifications for sugar.

Honey Bunches of Oats - vanilla clusters - this one has 13 g sugar - how can this be an approved cereal - just because it has whole grain?

The attached chart listing Post cereals is approved by USDA and lists sugar at 20.8/100 g. Post's representative and USDA have told us that we cannot go by the label as amounts are rounded. The USDA's required amount is ≤ 21.2 or < 6 g/oz.

Juices

The juices are causing confusion and limited variety to children as many of the stores cannot get 16 oz frozen, and now families cannot opt to get the smaller size. 64 oz juices that are approved are limited as well.

We are required to provide the maximum benefit of 128 oz of juice for children. The 16 oz and 64 oz containers address the full benefit requirement without going over or under. [Six varieties of juices in 64 oz container is currently allowed with 15 brands represented.](#)

Wording on Welch's plastic confusing - in the table it says 46 oz Plastic Bottle is OK - can they also get the 64 oz or just the 46 oz?

Both bottles of 46 oz. for women and 64 oz for children are authorized.

Canned vegetables

Is canned green peas allowed?

There are two types of canned beans and peas that show up two different places in WIC warrants.

1. Mature legumes – regular vouchers. For these beans or peas, the following regulations apply.

Any type of mature dry beans, peas, or lentils in dry-packaged or canned forms. Examples include but are not limited to black beans ("turtle beans"), blackeye peas (cowpeas of the blackeye variety, "cow beans"), garbanzo beans (chickpeas), great northern beans, kidney beans, lima beans ("butter beans"), navy beans, pinto beans, soybeans, split peas, and lentils. All categories exclude soups. May not contain added sugars, fats, oils or meat as purchased.

Canned legumes may be regular or lower in sodium content. Baked beans may be provided for participants with limited cooking facilities. The following canned mature legumes are not authorized: soups; immature varieties of legumes, such as those used in canned green peas, green beans, snap beans, orange beans, and wax beans; baked beans with meat; e.g., beans and franks; and beans containing added sugars (with the exception of baked beans), fats, meat, or oils. It has come to the attention of the Food and Nutrition Service that the requirement for "no added sugar" in canned beans may exclude some commonly consumed beans from WIC State food lists. We have learned from the Food and Drug Administration that small amounts of sugar are added to some foods that are naturally sugar-containing during the canning process to prevent stress resulting in membrane rupture (i.e., kidney beans). This small amount of added sugar is minimal and helps to maintain the quality and structure of the food. To encourage greater variety in food choices in the WIC food packages, canned beans that contain a small amount of sugar for processing purposes, such as canned kidney beans, will be allowed.

2. Frozen legumes and any other kind of bean not authorized under the legume category—fruit and vegetable voucher only The regulations for this category are listed below.

See above note on sugar. To encourage greater variety in food choices in the WIC food packages, canned vegetables that contain a small amount of sugar for processing purposes, such as plain canned sweet peas and corn, are allowed.

Milk

Fresh: Only half gallons and gallons are listed on the min stock list but many of our clients now receive at least one warrant w/ 1 quart on it. Some clients in some communities are complaining that they can't get their quart. Clients would have the right to get 1 quart from the Real Fresh (UHT) in that case, right? But it will make the cost of the check go up - so stores would be wise to carry some fresh quarts (and of course, those are only carried as UP milk).

We are aware of this issue and are addressing it in a newsletter that is due out soon. You are correct. If a vendor does not carry fresh milk quarts, they have to allow the client to get the UHT quart instead (this is a minimum stocking requirement). As you indicate, this will drive up the cost and the vendor could wind up over the NTE amount so they would be wise to stock up on fresh milk quarts.

Dry: many stores had been complaining they couldn't get the 3 quart. We rarely write checks for dry milk. Do we have to hold them accountable for dry?

We have not heard this complaint from others. We will be taking feedback from vendors through early January and may look at changing the powdered milk requirements in March if this is a program-wide issue.

Whole grain

It is not clear why one of the whole grain choices must be a whole wheat product, especially since it's been so challenging for stores to get in appropriately-sized bread products. Couldn't a store meet minimum if they carried a brand of tortillas and rice

Vendors are required to carry bread plus other whole grain options such as brown rice OR tortilla. The list of whole grain breads have recently been expanded to include those listed in the attached PDF file.

We have verified that these items are available from suppliers and brokers in Alaska. This information has been communicated to all vendors via the telephone, mailing, e-mail, and will be addressed again in the vendor newsletter which will be mailed to vendors at the end of this month.

Is it true that the Oroweat sandwich thins and Soga tofu have been approved. Can you re-send the materials?

Yes, the Multi-Grain Oroweat Sandwich Thins (12 oz) were recently approved. The attached notice was in the last Friday update.

Bread

Why are all the bread choices listed when not all of them are available to all clients? Because some clients can buy up to 32 oz of bread, we have to list the approved brands in this size plus those packaged in 12-16 oz size.

Cheese

Could you send another message to Vendors clarifying that they need to carry enough of the 1# blocks now. Some stores were used to carrying 8 oz blocks and 2# blocks, neither of which our clients can get (a few can get 2#, but most get 1#).

We have not heard this complaint from others. We will address it in a newsletter that is due out at the end of the month. Also, we may look at changing the cheese minimum stocking requirements in March if this is a state-wide issue.

Reclassification request from vendors

Can vendors request to be re-classified below their current classification, i.e. from C to A because they are not using all their check stands year-round?

A Vendor can submit a request for review. However, a Vendor classified as a "C" vendor for minimum stocking requirement purposes cannot be re-classified to become an "A" Vendor if redemption data and number of clients in their area requires that they stock the higher minimum amounts.

Exemption from carrying certain foods

What is the process for requesting exemptions for infant formula, baby foods, salmon, soy beverage, and tofu?

Vendors and LA agencies must confer about this request prior to sending it to the State office so that clients' access to WIC foods is not compromised. Vendors must complete the "Request for Exemption" form, copy attached, and send it to Elaine Rich, Vendor Coordinator, either by mail, fax (465-3416), or e-mail. Vendors must agree to stock these items within ten days following notification by the LAs that the items are needed.

How do we notify the MOV Vendor, Fred Meyer, when our client needs a non-contract formula in an emergency?

First, communicate with the infant's/child's parent or guardian and determine if they have the formula and how much do they have on hand. This is helpful in knowing whether Fred Meyer can send the product parcel post or priority and how much time they have to work with to secure the product for mailing to the client. Next, fax Rachael Bourdukofsky at 907/269-1748. Her e-mail address is rachael.bourdukofsky@stores.fredmeyer.com. **Without a fax from you, Rachael would not be able to "flag" an order that contains non-contract formula.** She does not routinely check the formula on the warrant to be able to tell that a non-contract formula, let alone an emergency order, has been received. **To ensure that the product is ordered promptly, you must follow-up with Rachael if she received your fax.**

FVVs

Has the State made changes to the food packages to reflect the increase in FVV coupon value for pregnant women, from \$8 to \$10?

Yes.



Nutrition for WIC
eligible Cereals 2009.



extra foods client
flyer FINAL 10-20-09



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