



Food Distribution National Policy Memorandum

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

DATE: January 16, 2008

POLICY NO: FD-071: National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)

SUBJECT: Setting Aside the Commodity Acceptability Reporting Requirement

In an effort to reduce reporting burden, we are again setting aside the requirement in 7 CFR 250.13(k) that the distributing agency submit a commodity acceptability report (Form FNS-663) to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), utilizing information collected from recipient agencies participating in the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program. In 1998, Public Law 105-336 required this information to be submitted to FNS every two years instead of annually. As a result, information was submitted every two years until FNS waived the reporting requirement for the FY 2006 reporting year only. FNS is waiving the reporting requirement again, for the FY 2008 reporting year, in anticipation of permanently removing the requirement from Food Distribution Program regulations. Hence, States are not required to submit a commodity acceptability report for FY 2008, or to collect the information needed to complete it.

In accordance with Section 3(f)(2) of the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987 (Public Law 100-237), the Department is still required to ensure that information about the acceptability of commodities is collected from recipient agencies administering the above-listed programs. However, with the general expansion of technology, information relating to commodity acceptability is now transmitted to FNS on a routine basis through the Electronic Commodity Ordering System, the commodity complaint hotline, and general electronic communication between FNS and State and recipient agencies. FNS is also active in obtaining such information through ongoing meetings with States and recipient agencies, and through periodic reviews of its commodity offerings.

If you have questions or comments regarding this issue, please contact Rosalind Cleveland at 703-305-2885, or by e-mail Rosalind.Cleveland@fns.usda.gov.

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