



# Food Distribution National Policy Memorandum

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

**DATE:** March 24, 2006

**POLICY NO.:** FD-053: 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

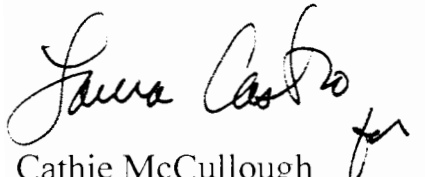
**SUBJECT:** Setting Aside the Commodity Acceptability Reporting Requirement

In an effort to reduce the reporting burden, we are 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 in the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program. Hence, for the 2006-07 reporting period only, the distributing agency is not required to submit this report, 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 must ensure that information with respect to the types and forms of commodities that are most useful to participants is collected from recipient agencies administering the above-listed programs, at least once every two years. However, with the implementation of the Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS), the establishment of the commodity complaint hotline, and the general expansion of electronic communication between FNS and distributing and recipient agencies over the last several years, information relating to commodity acceptability is now transmitted to FNS on a routine basis. Such information is also obtained at national conferences and through periodic food package reviews in FDPIR and CSFP.

Accordingly, this fiscal year we will take the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the current means of collecting commodity acceptability information, and to consider other ways of collecting such information as well. We also welcome your input. Please submit your thoughts on the effectiveness of the current means of collecting information on commodity acceptability, including the submission of the commodity acceptability reports, as well as your ideas for more effective or efficient means of obtaining such information. As a result of our assessment, we will determine if the commodity acceptability reporting requirement in 7 CFR 250.13(k) may be proposed for elimination through the rulemaking process. Such a regulatory proposal would be included in a proposed rule that would be subject to a public comment period before its implementation.

Please submit any input to your Regional Office or to Rosalind Cleveland of FNS Headquarters. Her e-mail address is [Rosalind.Cleveland@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Rosalind.Cleveland@fns.usda.gov).

  
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