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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

November 19, 2014

To: All Interested Food Manufacturers and/or Representatives

Subject: Whole Wheat Bread, Whole Wheat Tortillas, and Corn Tortillas Request for Information—Additional Information Regarding Flours Listed in the Ingredient List

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with additional information to accompany the letter we sent yesterday regarding our Whole Wheat Bread, Whole Wheat Tortillas, and Corn Tortillas Request for Information. We have received additional information from the United States of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) clarifying that small amounts of other flours may be present in the ingredient lists for whole wheat bread and whole wheat tortillas. We are sending this letter to provide you with that information and to inform you that we will accept submissions for consideration that include other flours in small amounts, per FNS guidance.

Clarifying Information from FNS.

In addition to the requirements listed in federal regulations ([7 CFR Part 246, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages; Final Rule](#)), FNS has provided the following clarifying guidance:

Whole Wheat Bread

The Standard of Identity (SOI) for whole wheat bread (21 CFR 136.180) allows for certain other optional ingredients in small amounts, including other non wheat flours. So long as the products meet the SOI for whole wheat bread, they remain eligible for use in the WIC Program.

Whole Wheat Tortillas

FNS has learned that the requirement that “whole wheat flour must be the only flour listed in the ingredient list” may exclude some whole wheat tortillas that utilize small amounts of flour, such as rice or soy in the processing of the product. This small amount of flour is minimal and helps to maintain the quality and structure of the food, such as to prevent the tortillas from sticking together. The intent of the requirement that “whole wheat flour be the only flour listed in the ingredient list” is to ensure that tortillas made entirely from whole wheat flour be authorized in the WIC program, not tortillas made with enriched wheat flour. Therefore,



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several previously WIC-eligible whole wheat tortillas whose second ingredient is “enriched wheat flour” for example, are no longer eligible for issuance in the WIC program. With that said, a product that contains a small amount of flour such as rice or soy flour in the ingredient list, for which the contribution of the non whole wheat flour ingredient is negligible and is required for a processing reason, such as to prevent the tortillas from sticking together, are allowed, at State agency option.

Additional Instruction

To submit your products, please follow the instructions from the letter originally sent to you on November 18, 2014; the deadline for submission is December 5, 2014. Again, please review the current [Food List Database](#) and do not resubmit products that are already listed.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Hancock at 916-928-8894 or Melanie.Hancock@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Wilkins".

Michelle Wilkins, Chief
Food Package Section
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Division