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February 19, 2016

VENDOR ALERT 2016 – 01

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS AND VENDOR APPLICANTS
SUBJECT: REVISED WIC AUTHORIZED FOOD LIST SHOPPING GUIDE (WAFL SG), EFFECTIVE MARCH 28, 2016

Purpose The California Department of Public Health,(CDPH)/Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Division is notifying vendors of an upcoming revision to the WIC Authorized Food List Shopping G (WAFL SG) for certain food categories.

Background On December 31, 2015, CDPH/WIC adopted an amendment to regulations for the WAFL, which details the requirements for WIC authorized foods, resulting in a new WAFL SG. The Final Action will be effective March 28, 2016, and will include changes to many food categories, including milk, eggs, soy, tofu, canned fish, whole grains, breakfast cereal, fruits and vegetables, infant cereal, infant fruits and vegetables, and infant meats. Yogurt will be added as a new food category.

To see all changes made to the WAFL, please see the Final Action on the Notice of Proposed Changes posted as Regulatory Alert 2015-02 on October 23, 2015 at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/Regulatory%20Bulletin/WIC-RegulatoryBulletin%202015-02.pdf>

Major Food Changes

The March 28, 2016 Major Food Changes are:

Milk Food Category

- Evaporated and Powdered Dry Milk will now be printed on the Food Instrument (FI).
- Participants can no longer purchase evaporated and powdered dry milk with a “fluid milk” FI.
- 2% reduced fat milk is authorized only when printed on the FI.

Egg Food Category

- DHA-enriched eggs have been added to the “Cannot Buy” list.
- Stress-free eggs have been removed from the “Cannot Buy” list.

Yogurt Food Category (New Category)

Yogurt has been added to the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG:

- Only plain, vanilla, and strawberry yogurt in 32 oz. containers is authorized.
- Participants must purchase the fat level printed on the FI.
- Only authorized brands and products, as listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG, are allowed.



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Soy Food Category

Two additional soy milks have been added to the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG:

- Silk Soymilk Original refrigerated half gallons.
- WESTSOY Organic Plus Soymilk Plain shelf-stable half gallons and quarts.

Tofu Food Category

- Package size requirements changed to 16 oz. only. List of authorized brands/products has changed and participants can only purchase authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG.

Canned Fish Food Category

- Canned Mackerel is a new authorized option in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG. Only 15 oz. cans packed in water or tomato sauce will be allowed.
- Six oz. cans of tuna have been removed from the “Can Buy” list.

Whole Grains Food Category

- Whole Wheat Bread: Participants will be able to purchase any brand of whole wheat bread in a 16 oz. package, as long as “100% Whole Wheat” is printed on the front label.
- Whole Wheat Tortillas: Participants can only purchase authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG.
- Corn Tortillas: Participants can only purchase authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG.
- Whole Wheat Pasta (New Option): Non-organic and organic 16 oz. packages are authorized with the Whole Grains FI. Participants can only purchase authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG.

Breakfast Cereal Food Category

- Various Crisp(y) Rice and Instant Oatmeal/Oats brands have been updated. Participants can only purchase authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG.

Fruits and Vegetables Food Category

The following have been added as authorized to the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG:

- Canned fruits mixed with canned vegetables as canned fruits (when a fruit is listed as the first ingredient).
 - Canned vegetables mixed with canned fruits as canned vegetables (when a vegetable is listed as the first ingredient).
 - Frozen fruits mixed with frozen vegetables as frozen fruit (when a fruit is listed as the first ingredient).
 - Frozen vegetables mixed with frozen fruits as a frozen vegetable (when a vegetable is listed as the first ingredient).
 - Frozen and canned potatoes without added fats and oils.
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Infant Cereal Food Category

- Various brands and products have been added to the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG.
- O Organics Organic Rice has been removed.
- Gerber Barley, Mixed Grain, and Organic Brown Rice have been removed.
- Only authorized brands and products, as listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG, are allowed.

Infant Fruits and Vegetables and Infant Meats Food Categories

- Only the listed brands in the revised WAFL SG are authorized in these categories, and only products manufactured under these brand names that also meet the requirements listed in the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG, are allowed.

Additional information

English and Spanish versions of the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG will be mailed to WIC Authorized Vendors during the week of March 1, 2016. WIC Authorized Vendors can order additional WAFL SGs and other WIC materials by following the instructions at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/Local%20Vendor%20Liaison/LVL%20Working%20Documents/WIC-Training-LVL-VendorMaterialsOrderingProcess.pdf>

FIs issued to WIC participants on or before March 27, 2016 will reference the July 5, 2011 WAFL SG in the “What to buy” section of the FI. FIs issued to WIC participants on or after March 28, 2016 will reference the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG in the “What to buy” section of the FI. During the first three-month transition period, please identify which WAFL SG is referenced in the “What to buy” section of the FI and use that WAFL SG to determine which foods participants may purchase.

To help assist you and your store with becoming familiar with the major food changes:

- A flyer highlighting the Major Food Changes has been included with this Vendor Alert. The flyer has been designed as a quick reference for you and your store.
- A Local Vendor Liaison (LVL) will be visiting your store in the coming weeks to provide assistance and answer any questions you may have. When an LVL visits your store, you are encouraged to take the time to meet with him or her and utilize the support service they offer.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the March 28, 2016 WAFL SG, please call toll-free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867 or email: WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov.



Lantrel Stockton, Chief
Vendor Operations Section
Vendor Management Branch



For all changes,
see the March 28, 2016
WIC Authorized Food List
Shopping Guide

... printed on the check can no longer be purchased with fluid milk checks

- 2% reduced fat milk is authorized when printed on the check

Eggs

- DHA-enriched “cannot buy”

Yogurt (New Category!)

- Plain, vanilla, and strawberry yogurt in 32 oz containers are authorized. Participant must buy fat level printed on check. See the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide for list of authorized brands, products, and cannot buys

Soy

- Two additional authorized soy milks:
 - » Silk Soymilk Original, refrigerated half gallons
 - » WESTSOY Organic Plus Soymilk Plain, shelf-stable half gallons and quarts

Tofu

- Package size requirement change to 16 oz only. For the list of specifically authorized brands and products for these brands, see the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide

... 16 oz cans packed in water or tomato sauce.

See the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide for list of cannot buys

Whole Grains

- **Whole Wheat Bread:** Can buy any brand (including store-bakery products) in 16 oz package that has “100% Whole Wheat” printed on the front label
- **Whole Wheat Tortillas:** Can only buy authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide
- **Corn Tortillas:** Can only buy authorized products listed in the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide
- **Whole Wheat Pasta (New Option!):** Non-organic and organic in 16 oz packages are authorized. See the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide for list of authorized brands and products

Breakfast Cereal

- Various Crisp(y) Rice and Instant Oatmeal/Oats brands. See the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide for list of authorized brands

... as canned fruits when a fruit is listed as the first ingredient

- Canned vegetables mixed with canned fruits as canned vegetables when a vegetable is listed as the first ingredient
- Frozen fruits mixed with frozen vegetables as frozen fruits when a fruit is listed as the first ingredient
- Frozen vegetables mixed with frozen fruits as frozen vegetables when a vegetable is listed as the first ingredient
- Frozen and canned potatoes without added fats and oils

Infant Cereal

- Various brands and products. See the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide for list of authorized brands and products

Infant Fruits and Vegetables and Infant Meats

- Can only buy products meeting requirements from the authorized brands listed in the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide

Eggs

- Stress-Free “cannot buy”

Canned Fish

- **Tuna:** 6 oz cans

Breakfast Cereal

- Mill Select Toasted Corn Flakes and Oat Bran
- Various Crisp(y) Rice and Instant Oatmeal/Oats brands. See the March 28, 2016 WIC Authorized Food List Shopping Guide for list of authorized brands

Fruits and Vegetables

- Frozen and canned potato “cannot buys”

Infant Cereal

- O Organics Organic Rice
- Gerber Barley, Mixed Grain, and Organic Brown Rice



California Department of Public Health, California WIC Program
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