



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



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director & State Public Health Officer

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

VENDOR ALERT 2017 – 01 REVISED

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS AND VENDOR APPLICANTS
SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 67 FOR WIC AUTHORIZED VENDORS

Purpose The California Department of Public Health, Women, Infants and Children Division (CDPH/WIC) is providing notification that California law prohibits WIC authorized vendors, who are subject to Senate Bill (SB) 270, from charging WIC participants for a reusable grocery bag or a recycled paper bag.

Background In 2014, the California Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, SB 270, a law that prohibited certain retail stores statewide from providing single-use carryout bags to customers. The law also prohibited these stores from selling or distributing these types of bags at the point of sale, unless the stores charged at least 10 cents per bag. The implementation of SB 270 was suspended when Proposition 67 qualified for the state ballot. Proposition 67 asked voters to approve or reject SB 270. On November 8, 2016, California voters approved Proposition 67.

This new law is now in effect and certain stores are no longer able to provide single-use grocery bags to their customers. Instead, these stores may provide a reusable grocery bag or a recycled paper bag to their customers at the point of sale at a charge of at least 10 cents. There is also a provision in this law that requires stores that choose to offer bags to their customers to provide either of these types of bags free of charge, for WIC purchases only, when customers redeem WIC food instruments.

Authority California Public Resources Code § 42283 (d) exempts WIC participants from the reusable grocery bag or recycled paper bag charge at the point of sale. WIC vendors, who are subject to SB 270 and who choose to offer these types of bags to their customers, must provide either of these types of bags free of charge, for WIC purchases only, when customers redeem WIC food instruments.



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Division
3901 Lennane Drive MS 8600, Sacramento, CA 95834
P.O. Box 997375 MS 8600, Sacramento, CA 95899-7375
(916) 928-8500 Internet Address: www.wicworks.ca.gov



Action for Vendors

Vendors, who are subject to SB 270 and who choose to offer bags to customers, shall not charge WIC participants for reusable grocery bags or recycled paper bags when redeeming their WIC food instruments.

For further information, refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on CalRecycle at: <http://calrecycle.ca.gov/Plastics/CarryOutBags/FAQ.htm>. Or visit [California Public Resources Code § 42283](#) to read the full text.

Questions

If you have any questions, contact your WIC Vendor Consultant or call toll free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867. You may also contact the WIC Vendor Management Branch by email at WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov.



Lantrel Stockton, Chief
Vendor Management Branch
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Division