



California
Department of
Health Services

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

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GROCER ALERT 2005-11



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

TO: ALL WIC GROCERS

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON VENDOR PROVISION OF
VERIFICATION OF LICENSED OR REGISTERED INFANT FORMULA
SUPPLIERS

Purpose

This is a follow up to Grocer Alert 2005-08. I am writing to provide you with further information regarding changes that affect vendor purchase of infant formula and subsequent change in authorization requirements and new procedures for vendors currently authorized with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program.

Background

Public Law 108-265, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (the Act) requires that State agencies maintain a list of licensed infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers in addition to a list of companies manufacturing infant formula who are registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Additionally, the Act requires authorized vendors that sell infant formula in exchange for WIC food instruments purchase their WIC infant formula only from approved suppliers.

Grocer Alert 2005-08 contains a list of these infant formula manufacturers as well as instructions detailing how vendors may verify that they are purchasing only from wholesalers, distributors, or retailers that are licensed in the State. The manufacturer list and sellers permit verification instructions from Grocer Alert 2005-08 are repeated below for your convenience.

Registered Infant Formula Manufacturers

The following is a list of companies currently registered with the FDA who manufacture infant formula:

- Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
- Nestle, USA
- Ross Products
- SHS North America
- PBM Nutritionals
- Solus Products, LLC

Background **Seller's Permit Verification Service**

The California Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program has determined that the seller's permit issued and maintained by the Board of Equalization meets the requirements pertaining to licensed distributors, wholesalers, and retailers as specified in the Act.

After requesting the seller's permit number from the supplier, use one of the following four ways to verify the validity of the seller permit number through the BOE:

- 1) Internet Verification Service – By linking to www.boe.ca.gov and selecting the "Permit Verification", at any time, you can enter the number for the seller's permit you are verifying. Do not enter letters or dashes.
- 2) Automated Seller's Permit Verification Service - By calling this automated toll free number at, (888) 225-5263, at any time, you can verify a seller's permit number. However, you will not have access to a customer service representative at this number.
- 3) Information Center – A customer service representative can be reached at, (800) 400-7115, to verify a seller's permit number. Representatives are available from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding State holidays.
- 4) Request by mail – A written request verifying a seller's permit number can be sent to:

Account Information Group, MIC:29
State Board of Equalization
P.O. Box 942879
Sacramento, CA 94279-0029

The business owner's name, business name, address, and seller's permit number must be included in the request as well as your name, phone number, and return address.

**Grocer
Implications**

In October 2005, currently authorized vendors will receive from WIC individually addressed letters that enclose copies of the Infant Formula Supplier Addendum to Application and the Vendor Agreement for their completion. The letter will contain detailed instructions for vendor completion and submission of the forms, including a deadline for their return to WIC for review and approval.

Please note that vendors are subject to audits and claims; program disqualifications; termination or non-renewal of contract for noncompliance of the purchasing requirements for WIC authorized infant formula.

**Other
Questions**

If you have any questions regarding the content of this Grocer Alert, please contact your WIC Grocer Consultant at (916) 928-8705. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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