



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

December 11, 2012

**VENDOR ALERT 2012 - 16**

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS  
SUBJECT: STOLEN FOOD INSTRUMENTS

**Purpose**

The California Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program has become aware that a number of blank food instruments (FI) have been stolen. Vendors should check the serial number of FIs presented at their store location to prevent a financial loss by accepting stolen FIs.

**Vendor Responsibility**

It is important that vendors verify the authenticity of the FI prior to accepting it as payment for WIC supplemental foods. The FIs with the serial numbers listed below were stolen and if presented have been altered; they should not be accepted.

- 520212749 – 520213166
- 520213279 – 520213308
- 520213310 – 520214000

**Verify FI Submissions**

Ensuring you follow the proper FI handling techniques helps protect you from financial loss by accepting a stolen FI. Vendors are encouraged to verify the acceptance of submitted FIs through Vendor WIC Information Exchange (VWIX) prior to depositing the FI into your bank. Counterfeit or altered FIs will not be reimbursed by the WIC Program and returned checks may be subject to bank fees.

**Possession of Stolen WIC FIs**

If you come into possession of a suspected stolen FI, report it to the WIC Program immediately at [WICABUSE@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:WICABUSE@cdph.ca.gov).

**Questions**

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

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Vendor Management Branch  
California WIC Program



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