



WIC Flash

News from the Arkansas WIC Program

5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 810, Little Rock, AR 72204

November 10, 2016

WIC Staff Updates

As noted in a previous WIC Flash, Effective February 12, 2016, the WIC Food Delivery Section Manager position was vacant. This position has now been filled. For any Vendor questions or concerns that would normally have been addressed by Pam Woodard George, please contact Gayla Lanum – Food Delivery Manager- Vendor Section Chief at 501-280-4675 or email her at gayla.lanum@arkansas.gov.

The new Vendor Food Delivery Liaison for the Central Region position has been filled. Twyana Rhodes can be reached at 501-280-4965/office or 501-786-6111/cell for any Vendor questions and concerns in the Central region. She can also be reached by email at Twyana.rhodes@arkansas.gov.

Arkansas Approved Food List - Additions and Changes

Following our recent distribution of the 2016 Approved Food List (October 1, 2016), we were notified of a few concerns and some confusion with items listed.

The Approved Food List Changes and Updates Effective October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2018:

- ❖ The food List shows Kellogg's Frosted Mini Wheats Harvest Delights (Blueberry or Cranberry). The correct item description is Kellogg's Frosted Mini Wheats Harvest Delights *(Blueberry with vanilla drizzle and Cranberry with yogurt drizzle)*.
- ❖ The food list shows MOM'S (Malt-O-Meal) Oat Blenders (with Honey or Almonds). The correct item description is *Oat Blenders with Honey or Oat Blenders with Honey and Almonds (Bag cereal only)*.
- ❖ The food list shows 64 oz. Blended: Juicy Juice (all flavors & blends; except Apple). This also applies to the 46 oz. Juicy Juice as well, only blended allowed.
- ❖ Correction: Incorrect listing for Great Value juice, please disregard the 46-48 oz. Cans or Bottles Apple Juice listing.
- ❖ Correction: 12-36 oz. package of cereal only, does not apply to the Quaker Instant Oatmeal – hot cereal which is an approved item. The Quaker Instant Oatmeal is 11.8 oz.
- ❖ Correction: Lactaid Calcium Enriched Milk, Fat Free, Low-fat 1%, Reduced 2%, and whole milk is a WIC Approved Item, but was not on the Approved Food List. Also allow 96 oz. sizes.
- ❖ **Addition:** *Great Value 100% Apple Juice 64 oz. is a WIC Approved item and was not in the Approved Food List. Walmart stores can tag and sale this product as a WIC Approved Item.*

WIC Reminders

Potatoes

Due to a change in the Food Rule, **ALL potatoes** are now included in the list of vegetables that may be purchased with a Cash Value Benefit (CVB). Effective **APRIL 1, 2015, participants may purchase all varieties of fresh potatoes (any packaging) or frozen potatoes (only salt and preservatives as additional ingredients)**. Frozen Hash Browns are allowed with no added sauces or seasonings and can be purchased with other vegetables mixed in for example: (onions, bell peppers). Frozen vegetable mixes containing potatoes are also allowed as long as they meet other restrictions on additional ingredients. Also, some infant foods containing potatoes are now allowed (see infant food section). As this is a significant change, please check your inventory for eligible items and make any changes to the POS system so it correctly identifies all WIC eligible items. This will also be a major training issue for front end staff.

Some vendors have not allowed the purchase of allowable frozen potatoes. Frozen potatoes without seasonings, sugar or oil have been allowed since April 1, 2015. Hash browns with only potatoes, salt and/or other preservatives are allowed. Below are some names/UPCs for national brands that meet the criteria. Store and wholesale brands are also allowed, but we do not have a complete list of those. Each vendor will have to check their selection of products to determine which ones meet the criteria.

00000075947401555	MR. DELL'S SHREDDED HASHBROWNS 30 OZ
00000075947401531	MR. DELL'S SOUTHERN STYLE HASHBROWNS 32 OZ
00000013120008337	ORE IDA SHREDDED HASHBROWNS
00000013120003929	ORE IDA DICED HASHBROWNS
00000013120004698	ORE IDA POTATOES O'BRIEN WITH ONIONS AND PEPPERS
00000013120007842	ORE IDA CUT RUSSETT STEAM AND MASH

Pumpkins

It's pumpkin season again! WIC participants may use their CVBs to purchase field and pie pumpkins. Pumpkins that are not allowed are: gourds or pumpkins that have been decorated with paint, or other decorative items. Miniature pumpkins are also excluded.

Canned and Dry Beans

“Not allowed”: Organic beans

Juicy Juice Apple Juice

There still seems to be some confusion about the status of **Juicy Juice Apple Juice (64 oz. and 46 oz.)**. Juicy Juice Apple Juice is **NOT authorized** on the current Arkansas WIC Program Approved Food List in either container size. Juicy Juice Apple is a single fruit juice (not blended with other juices) and therefore **DOES NOT qualify under the blended juice category**. All other Juicy Juice varieties are blended and qualify under blended juices included the Juicy Juice grape. They are still subject to the least expensive brand rule and should be compared in price to other blended juices in the same flavors. Juicy Juice Apple is NOT approved under the single fruit category for apple juice.

Formula Scanning Issues

Each can of infant formula are to be scanned individually. Many errors are being made because cashiers are scanning the same can multiple times and losing count, or they scan the can then enter the number of cans allowed on the WIC check. The additional cans of formula may cause Banking issues and delay payment to the store. Vendors will be required to refund the WIC Program for any formula checks that were not redeemed for the correct amount of cans.

Infant Fruits and Vegetables Purchases

Arkansas WIC allows the purchase of infant fruits and vegetables in 4 oz. glass jars and 8 oz. plastic 2-packs. The participant may buy a combination of glass jars and plastic 2-packs on the same WIC check. Many stores are counting the 2-packs as only one jar, this is incorrect. If the WIC check has the following food benefit:

Qty Description

16 -4 OZ JARS INFANT FRUITS/VEGETABLES (1 PLASTIC 2-PACK=2 JARS)

- The **maximum** number of plastic 2-packs that can be purchased with this check is **eight (8)**.

One (1) 8 oz. plastic 2-pack = Two (2) 4 oz. glass jars

Best Practices for Tagging the Appropriate WIC Items

Tagging of Arkansas WIC approved food items is a requirement of the current Arkansas WIC Vendor Participation Agreement & Handbook (p. 11, #36 and p. 27, Section D). Tagging seems to remain a challenge for some vendors. We have developed a one-page best practices and procedures guide that can be copied and shared with store staff that has responsibility for tagging WIC items. Properly tagging WIC approved items helps WIC participants select the correct foods and leads to a smoother WIC transaction at the register.

In 2015 a copy of this guide was also posted on the Arkansas Department of Health website <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/WIC/Pages/VendorManagement.aspx> under Vendor Management: Training Resources.

Minimum Stock Requirements

There have been continuous minimum stock issues with some vendors. Please make every effort to keep enough inventory for your expected customer flow and to alleviate minimum stock violations. Again, you may NOT substitute one formula for another. Vendors will be required to refund the WIC program for any formula checks that were not redeemed with the correct formula.

We expressed minimum stock requirements for formula in a 2015 WIC Flash:
The following minimum stock requirements have been in effect since October 1, 2015 for the new Abbott Nutrition formulas:

Similac Advance Stage 1, powdered, 12.4 oz.	30 cans
Similac Soy Isomil, powdered, 12.4 oz.	15 cans

Abbot Formula Update

There is an update from Abbott on Similac Advance 12.4 ounce powder product that we may see in our market for the next three to four months. It is possible participants may ask you questions about this can as it opens slightly differently than other Similac Advance small powder typically in the market (the nutrient profile, plastic lid, UPC code, reconstituted ounces per unit, calories per ounce, and price are identical).

Should you need to educate staff or participants on this topic, please see the images below. Can A (on the right) is typically found in the US market, can B (on the left) is Similac Advance made at Abbot's FDA-registered facility in Ireland and is occasionally found in the US market.



Should you or participants have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to Abbott customer service at: 1-800-515-7677, or contact the WIC State Office at 501-661-2508.