Date: November 14, 2008
Reference: # NSLP/SBP 2009-03
To: National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) Contractors
Subject: Aerated Beverages Categorized as “Soda Water”
Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose
REVISES Item 4129.6, Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value, in the NSLP/SBP Handbook and NOTIFIES school food authorities (SFAs) that aerated beverages are now classified as soda water in the NSLP/SBP.

Implementation
Immediately

Procedure
All beverages that are labeled as “aerated” or that bubble and fizz for several minutes after opening are now categorized as “soda water”, as defined by the Competitive Food Services regulations.

“Soda water” is defined as a class of beverages made by absorbing carbon dioxide in potable water. Soda water and aerated beverages are viewed and served the same way and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not believe that children can separate the two beverages. Perception is very important when making foods available to school-age children. The child only sees a “soda” and will not understand the difference between an aerated beverage and a carbonated beverage.

USDA does not differentiate between aerated water and soda water. Both beverages are considered to be foods of minimal nutritional value and must not be served in the food service area during the meal periods of both the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Authority
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Correspondence 2008-SP-30.

Contact
If you have any questions please contact your Food and Nutrition Field Operations Office.

This Policy Remains in Effect Until Further Notice