Date: June 18, 2004

To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Contractors

Subject: Inventory Control in Schools and Institutions, Quality and Safety

GUIDANCE ON INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

Introduction
“Best-If-Used-By” information is no longer available on commodity fact sheets because:
- There is no agreement among “experts” regarding the best-if-used by dates of food products.
- There is no single authoritative source of information on product best-if-used by dates.
- Storage conditions significantly impact the best-if-used by dates.
- Commercial product labels on the commodity products sometimes include expiration dates or best-if-used by dates.

New Resource
The Food Distribution Division developed guidance for use by schools and institutions providing “best-if-use by” information for food products.

Instructions
The attached Inventory Control in Schools, Quality and Safety guidance replaces information in Notice 99-4.

ATTACHMENT