POLICY ALERT

Date: January 8, 2010
Reference: # CACFP CCC 2010-02
To: Child and Adult Care Food Program-Child Care Centers (CACFP CCC) Contractors
Subject: Determining Creditability of Breakfast Cereals
Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose

ADD the following CACFP CCC Handbook Items:
- 4113.9, Creditability of Breakfast Cereals;
- 11420.3, USDA, ARS National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference;
- 11420.4, Manual Conversion for Nutrients per Portion of a Ready-to-Eat Breakfast Cereal; and
- 11420.5, Manual Conversion for Nutrients per Portion of a Ready-to-Cook Breakfast Cereal

Provide contractors with guidance on determining the creditability of breakfast cereals towards the grains/breads component.

Implementation

Immediately

Procedure

Add the following to your CACFP CCC Handbook:

4113.9, Creditability of Breakfast Cereals

A breakfast cereal is creditable if any of the following are true:
1. The cereal is labeled as whole grain (100% of the grain component is whole grain);
2. The cereal is labeled as “enriched”;
3. The cereal is labeled as “fortified”;
4. The ingredient statement shows that the primary grain ingredient is either whole grain, enriched flour or meal, bran or germ; or
5. Manufacturer documentation provides the gram amount of creditable grains per serving.

Refer to the flow chart in Section Three, on Page 3-7 of the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) for information regarding options to determine the creditability of breakfast cereals.

Some cereal manufacturers, however, no longer attach the words “fortified” or “enriched” to the name of the cereal on the label. In addition, some cereal manufacturers add the words “whole grain” or “made with whole grain” to the product label even if the grain component is not 100% whole grain, thus making it difficult to determine if the cereal is creditable.

continued

This Policy Remains in Effect Until Further Notice
If the cereal label does not give enough information to complete the steps in the FBG flow chart mentioned above, you may use the following nutrient criteria entitled the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals as a sixth option for determining creditability of breakfast cereals.

To provide consistency in determining grains/breads creditability, the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals is based on the minimum required amounts of selected nutrients in one slice of enriched bread. The FNS Nutrition Criteria for Breakfast Cereals does not replace the guidance in the FBG or how to determine the creditability of a grain/bread, as discussed in Item 4113.8 of the CACFP-CCC Handbook; it just provides an additional option to determine creditability.

If you use the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals to determine creditability, then the product must contain the minimum levels of all five nutrients listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Nutrient</th>
<th>Cereal Portion Size</th>
<th>Minimum % Daily Value (%DV) of Nutrient per Portion</th>
<th>or</th>
<th>Minimum Weight of Nutrient per Portion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thiamin (B1)</td>
<td>1.0 ounce or ¾ cup</td>
<td>6.7 % or 0.10 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riboflavin (B2)</td>
<td>1.0 ounce or ¾ cup</td>
<td>3.5 % or 0.06 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niacin (B3)</td>
<td>1.0 ounce or ¾ cup</td>
<td>4.2 % or 0.84 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folic Acid (B9)</td>
<td>1.0 ounce or ¾ cup</td>
<td>5.0 % or 20.0 mcg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>1.0 ounce or ¾ cup</td>
<td>3.9 % or 0.70 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** The FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals are set for specific portion sizes. The portion size for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is one ounce or ¾ cup, whichever amount weighs less. The portion size for cooked cereal is 25 grams of ready-to-cook dry cereal regardless of the amount of cooked cereal served or the amount of liquid is added to cook the cereal.

If the serving size on the Nutrition Facts Label matches the cereal portion listed in the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals chart, then you can compare the nutrients listed on the Nutrition Facts Label to the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals.

If the serving size on the Nutrition Facts Label does not match the cereal portion listed in the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals chart, then you will need to convert the nutrient values from the label to determine the amount of nutrients in the required cereal portion size.
You can convert the nutrient values using the online United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Nutrient Data Laboratory; National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference or you can manually calculate the nutrient values.

It is recommended that you use the ARS National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference. The ARS National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference can be found at http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/search/.

### Add the Attachments to Section 11000, Resources

### Authority

USDA Memo 2007-CN-02

### Contact

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