



CHILD NUTRITION

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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School Operations

School Call Update



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Food and Nutrition Division
National School Lunch Program

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www.SquareMeals.org



NSLP/SBP 2025-2026 AR/PR Schedule

The 2025-2026 NSLP/SBP Administrative Review (AR)/Procurement Review (PR) list of school food authorities (SFAs) is available at

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Compliance>

269 SFAs total including 60 SFAs with FSMC contracts

Procurement Reviews (PR) (off-site) for SFAs contracting with FSMCs will begin in July 2025.

On-site Administrative Reviews (AR) will begin in October 2025.



Buy American

TDA hosted a webinar on May 7, 2025 and can be found under NSLP in the training section of www.squaremeals.org titled *Buy American Webinar May 2025*

Two exceptions allowed:

A) Product is not manufactured domestically in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality

B) Competitive procurement reveals the cost of the domestic product is significantly higher than the non-domestic product

Both exceptions A and B require documentation, unless on the FAR list (48 CFR 25.104).

All non-domestic purchases are part of the 10% non-domestic CAP.

Decision Tree

Was food product
purchased with non-profit
food service account?

Yes

Buy American applies

No

Buy American does not
apply

Does the food product
meet the definition of
domestic?

Yes

No further action needed

No

Buy American Exception
must be met

Non-domestic product
must be included in 10%
CAP

Compliance Tracking

All non-domestic food items, including substitutions and allowable exceptions, must be tracked for compliance with the 10% CAP.

SFAs must develop a methodology to ensure compliance
USDA has developed a tracking tool to assist, but the use of this specific tracker is not required.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/buy-american-provisions>

Minimum Requirements for Tracking

Product Description

What product was purchased that is documented on the invoice as non-domestic

Exception type

Exception A: Quantity and quality

Exception B: Cost

Total commercial food purchases

Buy American: Reviews

Procurement Review:

- Must be included in solicitations for food items that will be using child nutrition funds.
If the clause is not included in the solicitation an amendment must be made
- Procurement procedures do not include the required Buy American language, procedures will need to be updated.

Administrative Review:

- SFA must have a list available of all non-domestic food items purchased and supporting documentation unless food item is on FAR list.
- Does the SFA have a tracking mechanism to monitor compliance with the SY 25-26 10% CAP

Buy American Accommodation Form

Will be provided to an SFA not able to provide documentation that they are tracking non-domestic purchases.

The accommodation form will be provided as part of technical assistance. The CAD will still require the SFA to outline how they will get in compliance with the CAP and how they will prevent this from reoccurring in the future.

The accommodation form is time specific, requiring the SFA to provide a timeline for compliance.

TDA is required to submit quarterly reports to USDA on the data collected from the use of the accommodation form.

USDA Processed Food Items

TDA has been asked if the entire cost of a processed food item will be counted as a USDA Food and therefore not included as a commercial food purchase in the 10% CAP calculation.

Answer:

TDA has asked USDA and are pending a response from the national office. However, we believe the answer is likely to be that the whole product is considered a USDA food and therefore none of the associated expenditures are to be included in the CAP calculation.

Water

TDA has been asked if water and energy drinks that do not contain agricultural commodities are included in Buy American.

Answer:

TDA has asked USDA and are pending a response from the national office.

2025 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Schedule

The review list of school food authorities (SFAs) receiving an SSO review in Summer 2025 is available at

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Compliance>

102 SSO reviews are scheduled

(Additional reviews may be added as SFAs are approved for SSO.)