



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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DATE: June 25, 2013

MEMO CODE: SP 49-2013

SUBJECT: Frozen Fruit Products in the National
School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs
in School Year 2014-2015

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Distributing Agencies
State Education Agencies
All States

This memorandum extends the provisions to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) set forth in SP 20-2012, published on September 11, 2012. The final rule, published on January 26, 2012, requires that frozen fruit served in the NSLP contain no added sugar beginning in School Year (SY) 2012-2013. It also requires that frozen fruit served in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) contain no added sugar beginning in SY 2014-2015. Since 2009, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reduced the amount of added sugars in packing media for frozen fruits offered to States; however most of the frozen strawberries, peaches and apricots offered by USDA currently contain added sugars.

The new regulation allows for a water (unsweetened) or juice-only frozen fruit pack. However, industry continues to require additional time to reformulate frozen fruit products without added sugars that have a flavor and texture that is acceptable. In addition, due to the growing season these products must be purchased with a long lead time to be available for schools. Therefore, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP and SBP through SY 2014-2015 (June 30, 2015). This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods as well as those purchased commercially.

USDA currently offers unsweetened frozen fruits, and encourages States and School Food Authorities (SFA) to order those products. Additionally, USDA is continuing to work with industry to offer frozen fruits through USDA Foods that will be unsweetened or juice pack products available for schools to order in future years.

In light of the continued product development challenges faced by industry, we are currently considering options for a longer term change. We continue to welcome input from a broad range of program stakeholders and interested parties regarding the impact of such a change.

State agencies are reminded to distribute this memo to program operators immediately. SFAs should contact their State agencies for additional information. State agencies may direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.

Original Signed

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