



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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SUBJECT: Frozen Fruit Products and Nutrition
Standards in the National School
Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Distributing Agencies
State Education Agencies
All States

The final rule published on January 26, 2012, requires that frozen fruit served in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) contain no added sugar beginning in School Year (SY) 2012-13. Since 2009, 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, to provide State agencies and school food authorities (SFAs) with time to use existing inventories, and to recognize the time needed for industry to reformulate and to pack new frozen fruit products, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP for SY 2012-13.

This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods as well as those purchased commercially and is for School Year 2012-13 only. Beginning July 1, 2013, all frozen fruit served in the NSLP must contain no added sugars.

USDA also currently offers unsweetened frozen fruits, and encourages States and SFAs to order those products. Additionally, USDA is working with industry to ensure that all frozen fruits offered through USDA Foods will be unsweetened or juice pack products available for schools to order for SY 2013-14.

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