



AUG 7 2009

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), The
Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity
Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Questions and Answers about
Juices in Plastic Bottles

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
MARO, MPRO, MWRO,
NERO, SERO, and SWRO

Regional Director
Office of Field Operations
WRO

State Directors
CSFP State Agencies
All Participating States

Beginning October 2009, we will begin offering juices in plastic bottles in FDPIR, TEFAP, and CSFP. Although juices in plastic bottles will be offered in October and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has stopped purchasing juices in tin cans, States should continue ordering juices in tin cans from their respective National Warehouse until inventories are depleted before ordering juices in plastic bottles. State and local agencies should also continue distributing all juices in tin cans in their local inventories until the supply is depleted.

We believe juices packaged in plastic bottles will better appeal to program participants in terms of both taste and the convenience offered through the resealable packaging. However, some State agencies have expressed concerns about packaging juices in plastic bottles. The attached document addresses these questions and concerns.

For CSFP and FDPIR, distribution rates for juices in plastic bottles may differ from the rates for juices in tin cans due to the size of packaging. Please consult the respective program's most recently issued distribution rate guidelines, if applicable, to determine the amount of juices to distribute to participants.

As State agencies begin receiving juices in plastic bottles and local agencies distribute it to participants, we continue to welcome feedback about the product. State agencies should address questions or comments to their Regional Office staff, who may in turn contact Michelle Waters or Dana Rasmussen at (703) 305-2662.

Cathie McCullough
Director
Food Distribution Division

Attachment