

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

USING CHILD NUTRITION (CN) LABELS IN THE CACFP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) CN Labeling Program is a voluntary federal labeling program for Child Nutrition Programs, including the CACFP. It provides food manufacturers the option to include a standardized food crediting statement on their product labels. The USDA approves labels prior to use, and manufacturers must have quality control procedures and inspection oversight that meet USDA requirements. All manufacturers participating in the CN Labeling Program must have a quality control program approved by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The USDA does not require that manufacturers make CN labeled products or that CACFP facilities purchase foods with CN labels. Purchasing decisions are at the discretion of the local CACFP child care center, family day care home, emergency shelter, at-risk afterschool care center and adult day care center. If the CACFP facility requires a CN labeled product, this must be clearly stated in the facility's purchasing specifications.

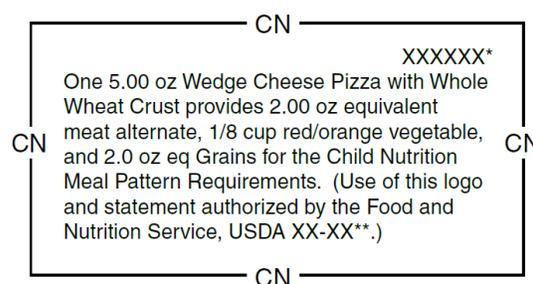
CONTENTS OF CN LABELS

A CN label statement clearly identifies the contribution of a commercial product toward the meal pattern requirements, based on the USDA's evaluation of the product's formulation. Manufacturers state this contribution on their labels. CN labeling provides CACFP facilities with a warranty that the product contributes to the meal pattern requirements as printed on the label.

CN labels are available only for **main dish entrees** that contribute to the meat/meat alternates component of the USDA meal patterns. Examples include beef patties, cheese or meat pizzas, meat or cheese and bean burritos, egg rolls, and breaded fish portions. The CN label will also indicate the contribution of other meal components that are part of these products. For example, CN labeled pizza may list contributions to the meat/meat alternates, grains, and vegetables components. CN labeled breaded chicken nuggets may list contributions to the meat/meat alternates and grains components.

The CN label will be found on the actual product packaging and will always contain the following:

- the CN logo, which is a distinct border;
- the meal pattern contribution statement;
- a six-digit product identification number;
- the USDA authorization; and
- the month and year of approval.



This sample CN label for cheese pizza with whole-grain crust indicates that the product provides 2 ounce equivalents of meat/meat alternates, 1/8 cup of vegetables (red/orange), and 2 ounce equivalents of whole grain-rich (WGR) grains.

The USDA does not allow manufacturers to place the CN label on a fact sheet or any other product information. Acceptable and valid documentation for the CN label includes the original CN label from the product carton, or a photocopy or photograph of the CN label shown attached to the original product carton. CN labels that are photocopied or photographed must be visible and legible. For more information, see the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) handout, [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the CACFP](#).

USING CN LABELS IN THE CACFP, continued

RESOURCES

Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the CACFP:

www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/nutrition/cacfp/credit/acceptdoccacfp.pdf

Authorized Manufacturers and Labels:

www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/authorized-manufacturers-and-labels

CN Labeling:

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/cnlabeling/default.htm

Crediting Foods in CACFP Adult Day Care Centers:

www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=336524

Crediting Foods in CACFP Child Care Programs:

www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=336518

SP11v2 CACFP10 SFSP13-2015: CN Labels Copied with a Watermark Acceptable Documentation:

www.fns.usda.gov/cn-labels-copied-watermark-acceptable-documentation

SP27 CACFP09 SFSP12-2015: Administrative Review Process Regarding the Child Nutrition (CN) Label, Watermarked CN Label and Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement:

www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP27_CACFP09_SFSP12-2015os.pdf



For information on the CACFP, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [CACFP Web site](#) or contact the [CACFP staff](#) in the CSDE, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

This handout is available at
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/nutrition/cacfp/credit/cnlabelcacfp.pdf.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) *mail:* U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) *fax:* (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) *email:* program.intake@usda.gov.

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