



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program

**FROM:** Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director  
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

**DATE:** March 19, 2012

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

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 Foods has reduced the amount of added sugars in packing media for frozen fruits; however, most of the frozen strawberries, peaches and apricots offered by USDA Foods currently contain added sugars. As of SY 2012-13, these products will no longer be offered through Arizona's USDA Foods Program. However, a variety of frozen fruit products without added sugar will be available and you are encouraged to use these products.

The new regulation allows for a water (unsweetened) or juice-only frozen fruit pack. However, to provide 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, SFAs may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP for SY 2012-13.

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

Currently USDA Foods offers unsweetened frozen fruits, and encourages SFAs to order those products. Additionally, USDA Foods 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.

If you have any questions on these requirements, please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at 602-542-8700.

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