



March 2019

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

Child Nutrition (CN) Label to Include the Declaration of All Creditable Grains (Whole Grains and Enriched Grains)

On December 12, 2018, USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the Final Rule: [Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements](#). The Final Rule provides schools with a whole grain-rich (WGR) flexibility for SY 2019-2020 and beyond. The WGR flexibility requires that half of the weekly grain items offered in the school lunch and breakfast menu be WGR, and the other grain items must be enriched.

Effective immediately, CN labeled products containing enriched grains (such as enriched wheat flour) may now include the declaration of the grains credit within the crediting statement. Previously, only CN labeled products that met the WGR criteria were eligible to specify the grains contribution in the crediting statement. In addition, CN labeled products containing grains that did not meet the WGR criteria were required to include a disclaimer that stated *“This product contains grains that are not creditable in school meal programs. Additional grains must be served to meet meal pattern requirements.”*

CN labeled products that contain enriched grains and include the disclaimer may be resubmitted to the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), CN Labeling Program Office, to remove the disclaimer and declare the grain contribution. These CN labeled products are not required to obtain a new CN identification number, as long as the product formulation and the order of predominance of the ingredients do not change. The applicant should clearly identify the reason for resubmission in the application.

Products meeting the whole grain-rich criteria shall continue to use the following language to declare a grains contribution within the CN label crediting statement:

- X.XX oz. equivalent grains

Products containing predominantly enriched grain ingredients (e.g., enriched wheat flour) shall use the following language to declare a grain contribution within the CN label crediting statement:

- X.XX oz. equivalent grains (enriched)

Please note, only food items containing a minimum of 0.50 oz. eq. meat/meat alternate are eligible for a CN label. Schools purchasing CN labeled products with an enriched grains credit may begin serving them as of July 1, 2019.