

Revisions to USDA Foods Guidance

School Call

Edward Check, Policy Analyst
Edward.Check@TexasAgriculture.gov



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Food and Nutrition Division
Commodity Supplemental Food Program



Updated 6/17/2024
www.SquareMeals.org

Revisions to USDA Foods Guidance

Recent Rules Revisions

Revision 4 of FNS Instruction 709-5, *Shipment and Receipt of USDA Foods*

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-foods/shipment-receipt-goods-instruction-709-5>

- Only applicable to those schools receiving truckloads at their own warehouses directly from USDA vendors (direct-ship schools)
- Schools receiving shipments from the State Contracted Warehouses continue to follow current procedures

Key directives:

- Removes outdated references to “High” Security seals (discontinued July 2023)
- Inspection costs for not out-of-condition foods will now be reimbursed by USDA, if needed
- Photograph/video evidence specifically required for pest infestation or out of condition food complaints/shipment refusals

Revisions to USDA Foods Guidance

Recent Rules Revisions

FNS Instruction 709-5, continued

- Schools must continue to notify TDA if shipments contain out-of-condition foods
- USDA representative must respond to school within two hours for refused shipment requests
- Rejected shipments must leave school property immediately
- Schools are expected to receive shipments on assigned dates and schedule multiple truckloads to be received accordingly
- Schools should continue to receipt within 24 hours (two business days is maximum)