



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

December 21, 1995

Dear Industry Executive:

An important part of the current regulation for the Healthy School Meals Initiative is the development of the National Nutrient Database for Child Nutrition Programs (NNDCNP). The NNDCNP is utilized by the software industry to develop nutrient analysis software for school food service using NuMenus/Assisted NuMenus and the State monitoring of Food Based Menus. Through the use of approved software and the NND-CNP, school lunch directors will be able to compute an accurate nutrient analysis of school lunch and breakfast meals served to children.

The second release of the NNDCNP was available on July 21, 1995. It contains current USDA Quantity Recipes for School Food Service, 1800 standard reference foods, current USDA commodities, and 300 processed foods submitted by industry. At this time, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will continue to develop and maintain the standard reference, USDA recipe, commodity, and Food Buying Guide files of the National Nutrient Database for Child Nutrition Programs.

The primary purpose of this letter is to inform you that the processed food data of the NNDCNP will not be managed by ARS. The Food and Consumer Service (FCS) will establish a contract with a non-government entity to develop the processed foods file for the NNDCNP. Manufacturer nutrition fact sheets and nutrition labels will be acceptable for product nutrient data submission. Currently, we are encouraging the food industry to prepare product labels or nutrition fact sheets for submission of institution processed foods used in school food service. As soon as FCS has established a contract for data collection and control, you will be notified. In the meantime, please submit nutrient data for your products to the local schools, so that they will have this information for the analysis of recipes and menus served under NuMenus/Assisted NuMenus.

The food products that industry provides to schools are important components of the meals that are offered to school children on a daily basis. USDA encourages your company to consider submitting the nutrient analysis of your products to be included in future releases of the NNDCNP. The schools require this data to plan and analyze their school meals for compliance to USDA standards for reimbursement. Nutritional analysis entered at the national level saves the local school the labor time of local entry and makes your product usable across the Nation.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Renee Prioleau at (703) 305-2556.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Vogel
Acting Director
Nutrition and Technical Services Division

Note: This document is document #6 in the packet sent to software developers by FNS. The original letter was signed by Ronald J. Vogel. Word version of this document was created November 2007. The name of the National Nutrient Database for Child Nutrition Programs (NND-CNP or NND-CNP) was changed to the Child Nutrition Database (CN Database).