



Hello Alpha & Omega Nutrition Program Provider,

Following recent audit findings, it has become evident that many providers are unclear about what **Child Nutrition (CN) Labels**, or a **Product Formulation Statement (PFS)** are, and how these documents are used to demonstrate compliance with CACFP meal pattern requirements.

We strongly encourage all providers to **pay close attention during the upcoming annual training session on CN Labels and Documentation**, as understanding and properly maintaining these records is critical for program compliance.

Required Documentation

Per **7 CFR § 226.20(f)**, all **commercially prepared combination food items** served at your center must be supported by either:

- A valid **CN Label** from the product packaging, or
- A **manufacturer-signed Product Formulation Statement (PFS)**
- **Examples of Products Requiring Documentation**
- **CN Labels** for processed entrees such as chicken nuggets, meat patties, crumbles, lasagna, Vienna, hot dogs, lunch meats, canned soups, frozen burritos, and pre-made sandwiches
- **Nutrition labels** for items like cheese, yogurt, and breakfast cereals (to determine sugar content)
- **Ingredient labels** for 100% fruit/vegetable juices and whole-grain products
- **Recipes** for all homemade combination dishes
- *Note:* Certain items, such as pork hot dogs and Vienna sausages, are generally **not creditable** unless a valid PFS is provided. If your product is **not listed** in our CN label library, it is likely **not creditable** under CACFP guidelines.

You are required to **maintain a file** of these documents, organized and readily accessible. If requested during a review, the documentation should be available **within minutes**. Extended delays in providing this information suggest non-compliance and may result in **corrective action or meal disallowances**.

Immediate Action Steps

1. **Review your current menu** and identify all items that require CN or PFS documentation.
2. **Create and maintain a file** with the necessary supporting documents for each item.

Tools to Assist

- Use the **Alpha & Omega website (Provider Portal > CN Labels and Meal Pattern)** to access commonly used CN Labels and PFS documents.
- Use **Google** or the **manufacturer's website** to search for CN-labeled or creditable versions of the products you serve.
- **Compare brands** to find those that meet CACFP documentation requirements.
- Only **purchase and serve** products that can be supported by appropriate documentation.

Monitoring Update

Starting immediately, CN Label and PFS documentation will be a **standard review element** during all monitoring visits. Incomplete or missing documentation may result in **meal disallowances or fiscal penalties**.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this important requirement and your continued dedication to providing healthy, compliant meals to the children in your care.