

wic VIP

VENDOR INFORMATION PUBLICATION



An e-newsletter for Alabama WIC

April 2022

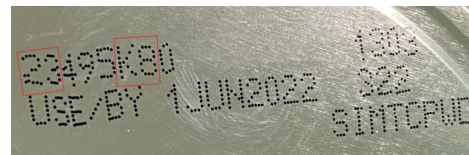
Abbott Recalls Powdered Infant Formula from Single Manufacturing Site

Abbott issued a formula recall on four (4) Similac powdered formula products (including infant and other varieties) produced in their Sturgis, Michigan facility. The first three (3) powdered formulas may be sold in your store.

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|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Similac | 2. Alimentum | 3. EleCare | 4. Similac PM 60/40 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|

The FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum or EleCare powder infant formulas if:

- The first two digits of the code are 22 through 37 and
- The code on the container contains K8, SH, or Z2, and
- The expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.



WIC participants should be treated the same under store policies in regard to this infant formula recall. This may result in WIC participants receiving the same product, a substitute product, a store credit, or a cash refund. WIC agencies are not requiring vendors to track what product is issued to WIC shoppers or whether returned formula was related to a WIC transaction.

Alabama WIC Family Formula and Nutritionals Issuance by Zip code

Alabama WIC staff created a report designed to proactively address infant formula and nutritional supply issues related to inadequate store orders. The report contains the number of families issued WIC formula and other nutritionals by their zip code of residence. As formula supply issues are resolved, we hope you will use this report to gain awareness of the current needs of WIC participants in your area and adjust store orders accordingly. Alabama's WIC Program anticipates sending out this report monthly.

Downloading the Alabama WIC Approved Product List (APL) Reminder

All vendors should connect their Point of Sale (POS) system for each eWIC device/outlet covered by the WIC vendor agreement to the state's eWIC system at least once each 24-hour period to download reconciliation files and the APL. This ensures WIC participants are able to purchase all WIC-approved foods at your store(s).

WIC Compliance

A part of the WIC compliance process is reviewing pertinent records and documents. Ensure all store management staff has knowledge and access to pertinent files in relation to WIC during vendor site visits.



Cash Value Benefits (CVB) for Fruits & Vegetables

The temporary CVB increase has been extended through September 30, 2022.

WIC participants receive substantially higher CVB amounts, with many families receiving over \$100 every month to purchase fresh produce. Each child receives \$24, pregnant and postpartum women receive \$43, and breastfeeding women receive \$47. The CVB increase is enabling WIC participants to purchase new varieties of nutritious fruits and vegetables. However, many WIC families are unable to fully utilize their CVB due to incorrect mapping. Make sure your store is following the correct procedure outlined in the Produce Mapping section below.



Produce Mapping (Linking)

The Alabama WIC Program requires retailers to map (link) produce to an Alabama WIC-approved Price Look-Up (PLU) code. All fresh fruits and vegetables are WIC-approved. However, only correctly mapped produce will be recognized and approved during WIC transactions. This means that any fresh fruit or vegetable without an International Federation of Produce Standards (IFPS)-approved PLU code will not be recognized and approved.

Participants continue to experience barriers redeeming CVBs due to incorrect mapping of fresh fruits and/or vegetables. Mixed bags of different produce items are frequently affected (e.g., bag of apples and oranges). Bulk bags of the same produce item have also been affected (e.g., bag of apples). This results in WIC participants not being able to redeem CVBs and lost sales to your store. Please ensure all produce is correctly mapped to the exact or most closely related PLU code. Alabama WIC is in favor of utilizing the **generic 4469 PLU** to ensure WIC participants are able to purchase fresh produce that is incorrectly mapped.

Store Responsibility:

- Map/link all fresh fruits and vegetables to an IFPS-approved PLU code.
- Contact your Electronic Cash Register (ECR) Provider for specific instructions as every ECR is different.
- Ensure store personnel are trained to address issues that may occur.

Additional mapping information can be found by visiting the IFPS website at <https://www.ifpsglobal.com/> or the Alabama eWIC for Vendors page at <http://alabamapublichealth.gov/wic/vendors.html>.

Submitting New Food Products to Alabama WIC for Consideration

To submit a unique product code (UPC), use the Alabama WIC App or email an Alabama UPC Submission Form to alwicupc@adph.state.al.us. Please check the Alabama WIC Food Brochure to ensure the item is WIC-approved. Alabama's WIC Food Brochure is available at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/wic/vendors.html>.

Check it Out Alabama has a WIC App!

Access the WIC approved foods brochure and stay connected with social media posts and WIC news.



Need Supplies or Have Questions?

We are here to help you! If you have WIC questions or concerns call us at the State WIC Office. You can order supplies, such as shelf labels, Alabama WIC Program Vendor Procedure Handbooks, approved foods brochures, or window clings, by calling 1-888-942-4673.