

Flexibility for Whole-Grain Rich Grains in SY 2016-2017

Fax or email the completed form to: Child and Adult Nutrition Services at (605) 773-6846 or email to DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us using the Subject Line: WHOLE GRAIN-RICH EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM

USDA memo SP 20-2015 allows School Food Authorities (SFAs) the ability to request an exemption from the whole grain-rich requirement for school year (SY) 2014-2015 and (SY) 2015-2016. SP20-2015 can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SP20-2015os.pdf>. The memo contains resources and a Q&A section. This Exemption is applicable for the 2015-2016 school year.

School Food Authorities (SFAs) may request exemptions to specific products if the SFA can demonstrate hardship(s) in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are acceptable to students. SFAs granted the exemption must comply with the SY 2013-2014 requirement to offer at least half of the grain items as whole grain-rich. SFAs may retain the previously approved pasta exemptions through the 2015-2016 school year and do not need to reapply for the pasta items already approved. However, SFAs must apply for different pasta items and non-pasta items even if they have an approved pasta exemption from 2014-2015.

List each product and provide written justification or other documented evidence (e.g. photos, meal count records). SFAs must submit this form to request the exemption. An email will be returned to the Authorized Representative regarding approval or denial of the exemption. SFAs that receive an exemption remain responsible for incorporating whole grain-rich products into menus and must ensure that at least half of the grain items offered weekly are whole grain-rich.

This temporary exemption is allowed for any type of grain product and may include one or more products. Products may include brown rice, pasta such as noodles, macaroni, spaghetti, or bread items such as buns, dinner rolls, sandwich bread, pizza crust, etc.

Based on the criteria, grain products offered in the school meal programs must contain at least 50 percent whole-grain meal and/or flour. The remaining 50 percent or less of grains, if any, must be enriched. Foods containing between 50 and 100 percent whole grains are allowable. Schools are not required to offer 100 percent whole grain products. For additional information on the whole grain-rich requirement, including how to evaluate if a grain product meets the whole grain-rich criteria, see the Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs: A Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-Rich Criteria, available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/WholeGrainResource.pdf>.

SFAs that receive an exemption will be considered compliant with the whole grain-rich requirements during an Administrative Review or a performance-based certification review if their grain offerings are consistent with the exemption granted by the State agency and at least half of the grains offered weekly are whole grain-rich.

Questions regarding this form contact (605) 773-3413 or DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us.

South Dakota Whole Grain Exemption Request for SY2015-2016 in compliance with SP20-2015

SFA INFORMATION:

SFA AGREEMENT NUMBER:	SFA NAME:	EMAIL ADDRESS OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:
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Product	Reasons for requesting exemptions (check all that apply and provide written justification and/or documentation)
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Name: Manufacturer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial hardship
	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited product availability
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable product quality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor student acceptance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

CANS, DEPARTMENT USE ONLY	Plan to achieve future compliance (must be completed)
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	
Denied <input type="checkbox"/>	

Name: Manufacturer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial hardship
	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited product availability
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable product quality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor student acceptance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

CANS, DEPARTMENT USE ONLY	Plan to achieve future compliance (must be completed)
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	
Denied <input type="checkbox"/>	

Name: Manufacturer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial hardship
	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited product availability
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable product quality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor student acceptance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

CANS, DEPARTMENT USE ONLY	Plan to achieve future compliance (must be completed)
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	
Denied <input type="checkbox"/>	

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:	AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TITLE:	DATE:
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE PRINTED NAME:		