Tips for Successful Publication to GS1 GDSN®
for USDA Foods in Schools

The following information is for USDA Foods vendors submitting USDA Foods in Schools product information within GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN®) for products indicated on the List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting*. The product information USDA Foods vendors submit to USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for the USDA Foods Program via GS1 GDSN® will be released and made available in the USDA Foods Database, a resource for State agencies and school districts that can be found on the FNS website. This document provides a brief overview of the information being requested for the USDA Foods Program and some helpful tips for successful publication. For more in-depth information on how to publish your product information via GS1 GDSN®, please see the USDA Foods Program Implementation Guide.

*__Note:__ FNS is only requiring and accepting publications for items listed on the List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting. If you do not see your product listed, you may be supplying product for another USDA Foods program, such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). If you need assistance determining which USDA Foods products need to be published, please contact 1WorldSync at businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com and FNS at USDAFoods@usda.gov.

Getting Started
- The USDA Foods Program **GLN** is **0861583000319.** Please ensure you are publishing to the correct GLN. The USDA has two GLNs that are associated with different databases for USDA Child Nutrition Programs.
  - For the USDA Foods Database for USDA Foods in Schools products, use the GLN: USDA - FNS 0861583000319, and the trade channel "Child_Nutrition_Food_Programs". Publishing to the USDA Foods Database is contractually required for USDA Foods products that have been awarded to approved USDA Foods vendors.
  - For another USDA initiative, the Child Nutrition (CN) Database (through the Global Branded Food Products Database process) use the GLN: USDA 0861583000302, and the trade channel "Child_Nutrition_Food_Programs". Publishing to the CN Database is voluntary for products marketed and sold to school foodservice.
- 1WorldSync Item Management users should select the appropriate playlist to submit the required attributes for the USDA Foods Database. For all other data pool subscribers, please refer to the USDA Foods Program Implementation Guide to identify the attributes that the USDA Foods Database requires.
  - The USDA Foods Database uses the playlist titled "FNS Food Distribution". If you are a 1WorldSync Item Management user, this playlist must be selected, as it contains the required attributes for USDA Foods in Schools products.
  - The other USDA databases (CN Database and Global Branded Foods Products Database) use the playlist titled "USDA". This playlist **does not** contain the required attributes for USDA Foods in Schools products.
- USDA FNS has an open target market subscription and you **do not** need to request USDA FNS to create a subscription for your GLN. You can immediately publish all trade items, attributes, and associated data directly without delay.

Attributes

- The table below identifies the attributes that FNS will communicate to State agencies and school districts through the USDA Foods Database for USDA Foods in Schools products. The column titled **USDA Foods Database Field** is how the attribute will appear in the USDA Foods Database. The column titled **Attribute Name** is the name of the field that USDA Foods vendors need to populate for GDSN®. The column titled **Additional Information** contains more details about each attribute.

USDA Foods Database Field	Attribute Name	Additional Information
Product Information		
Material Code	FNS Material Number	A 6-digit unique identifier that specifies each USDA Foods product. This number can be found in the column titled **Material Code** on the List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting. It can also be found under the column titled **Material** on the solicitation for the product you are supplying to the USDA. *See note above.
Material Description	FNS Material Description	The description can be found in the column titled **USDA Foods Description** on the List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting. Review the pack size listed in the column titled **Pack Size** to ensure the product you are entering is one that FNS is seeking. If you do not see the pack size for your product listed, then the information for that product is not required.
Vendor Name	Brand Owner Name	Usually the same as the manufacturer name but may also include the nonmanufacturer/broker name.
Brand Name	Brand Name	Recipients identify the product received by the brand name listed on the package. If the product supplied to the USDA is unbranded, please indicate the recognizable name on the package that can be used for identification purposes.
Serving Size	Serving Size Description	The preferred serving size can be found in the column titled **USDA Preferred Serving Size for GS1 GDSN** on the List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting. Alternative serving size descriptions, such as 2 slices or 1 carton, will be reviewed and accepted on a case-by-case basis.
Grams/Serving Size	Serving Size	The weight of the serving size should be reported in grams.
CN Crediting	Child Nutrition Label → Child Nutrition Expiration DateTime, Child Nutrition Product Identification, Child Nutrition Label Statement, Child Nutrition Qualifier Code, Child Nutrition Qualified Value, Child Nutrition Value, and Child Nutrition Label Document

OR | Information on how your product credits or contributes towards meal pattern requirements for Child Nutrition (CN) programs is important for recipients. Crediting information can be populated in multiple areas for GDSN® depending on the documentation available. If your product has a CN Label or Product |

USDA Foods Database Field	Attribute Name	Additional Information

	Product Formulation Statement → Product Formulation Statement Description, Total Portion Weight As Purchased, Creditable Ingredient Type Code, Total Creditable Ingredient Type Amount, and Product Formulation Statement Document	Formulation Statement (PFS), please populate these sections for GDSN® and upload a digital copy of the documentation as a PDF, JPG, or PNG.
		• CN Label documentation should be the watermarked copy of the CN Label. The watermark should read, "Copy not for documenting federal meal requirements" and the inspection legend should be redacted or removed. A CN Label must also contain the following:
		   o CN logo (which is a distinct border)
		   o Meal pattern contribution statement
		   o Unique 6-digit product identification number (assigned by AMS)
		   o USDA/FNS authorization statement
		   o Month and year of AMS approval
		   o Product name
		   o Ingredient statement
		   o Signature/address line
		   o Net weight
		• Products with a red asterisk (*) on the List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting are **required** to have a CN Label or PFS to verify crediting information. If you do not have this documentation available for your product, please contact USDAFoods@usda.gov.
		• For products with a CN Label please populate, at a minimum, the following information for GDSN®:
		   o **Child Nutrition Expiration DateTime:** The date upon which the CN Label expires.
		   o **Child Nutrition Product Identification:** The unique 6-digit product identification number assigned by AMS.
		   o **Child Nutrition Label Statement:** Enter CN Label meal pattern contribution statement exactly as written.
		     ▪ *Example: Each 2.4 oz Fully Cooked Char-Broiled Hamburger Steak provides 2.00 oz equivalent meat for the Child Nutrition Meal Pattern Requirements.*
		   o **Child Nutrition Qualifier Code**: Select the meal component for which your product credits.

USDA Foods Database Field	Attribute Name	Additional Information
		Example: Meat or Meat Alternative **Child Nutrition Qualified Value**: Enter the serving size of the product. *Example: 2.4 ounce* **Child Nutrition Value**: Enter how much one serving credits as. *Example: 2 ounce* **Child Nutrition Label Document**: Upload a digital copy of the watermarked CN Label as a PDF, JPG, or PNG. - For products with a PFS please populate, at a minimum, the following information for GDSN®: **Product Formulation Statement Description:** Enter the textual statement exactly as written. *Example: I certify the above information is true and correct and that a 1.75 ounce portion of this product (ready for serving) provides 1.25 oz eq grains. I further certify that non-creditable grains are not above 0.24 oz eq per portion. Products with more than 0.24 oz eq or 3.99g for Groups A-G or 6.99g for Groups H and I of non-creditable grains do not credit toward the grains requirement for school meals.* **Total Portion Weight As Purchased**: Enter the weight of the serving size of the product in grams. *Example: 50 g (1.75 ounce)* **Creditable Ingredient Type Code:** Select the meal component for which your product credits. *Example: Grain or Grain Alternative* **Total Creditable Ingredient Type Amount**: Enter how much one serving credits as. *Example: 1.25 ounce* **Product Formulation Statement Document:** Upload a digital copy of the PFS as a PDF, JPG, or PNG.
Case Yield	Number of Servings Per Package	The total number of servings contained in the package based on the **Serving Size** provided.

USDA Foods Database Field	Attribute Name	Additional Information
Nutrients		
Calories (kcal)	Nutrient Type Code → Calories (Cal)	• When providing nutrient information, for the **Nutrient Basis Quantity Type Code**, select 'By Child Nutrition Serving' and provide information based on the CN Serving Size (i.e. cups for fruits and vegetables and ounce equivalents (oz eq) for meat/meat alternates and grains). To see the preferred serving sizes for all USDA Foods, please refer to the [List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting](#). • If you select 'By Measure' for the **Nutrient Basis Quantity Type Code**, the system will prompt you to enter information for a 100-gram serving. If you enter nutrient information for a 100-gram serving, you will need to provide the weight in grams for the preferred CN Serving Size in **Serving Size**. USDA will calculate the nutrient information based on the Serving Size. • If you select 'By Serving' for the **Nutrient Basis Quantity Type Code**, the value and unit of measure should be the same as the **Serving Size.** • The **Nutrient Format Type Code Reference Code** is used to indicate the Nutrition Facts Panel format for your product. This will be referenced when nutrient amounts have been provided only as Percent Daily Value (% DV) instead of as a value with a unit of measure (i.e. 250 mg). The indicated format informs how the nutrient should be calculated from % DV to a value with a unit of measure.
Total Fat (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Total Fat (g)	
Saturated Fat (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Saturated Fat (g)	
Trans Fat (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Transfatty Acids (g)	
Cholesterol (mg)	Nutrient Type Code → Cholesterol (mg)	
Total Carbohydrate (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Carbohydrates	
Total Sugars (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Total Sugar (g)	
Added Sugars (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Added Sugars	
Dietary Fiber (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Total Dietary Fiber (g)	
Protein (g)	Nutrient Type Code → Protein (g)	
Sodium (mg)	Nutrient Type Code → Sodium (mg)	
Vitamin D (mcg)	Nutrient Type Code → Vitamin D (mcg)	
Iron (mg)	Nutrient Type Code → Iron (mg)	
Calcium (mg)	Nutrient Type Code → Calcium (mg)	
Potassium (mg)	Nutrient Type Code → Potassium (mg)	
Allergens		
Egg	Allergen Type Code → Eggs and Their Derivatives	• For fish, milk, shellfish, tree nut and wheat allergens, there are multiple Allergen Type Codes that can be selected. Please reference the **Allergen Type Codes** in the [USDA Foods Program Implementation Guide](#) for all available options. • After the correct Allergen Type Code has been selected, the **Level of Containment Code** must be identified. The following options are available to select: ○ **Contains** – the allergen is found in the product.
Fish	Allergen Type Code → Fish and Their Derivatives	
Milk	Allergen Type Code → Milk and its Derivatives	
Peanut	Allergen Type Code → Peanuts and Their Derivatives	
Sesame	Allergen Type Code → Sesame Seeds and Their Derivatives	
Shellfish	Allergen Type Code → Shellfish and its Derivatives	
Soy	Allergen Type Code → Soybean and its Derivatives	
Tree Nut	Allergen Type Code → Tree Nuts and Their Derivatives	
Wheat	Allergen Type Code → Wheat and Their Derivatives	

USDA Foods Database Field	Attribute Name	Additional Information
		○ **May Contain** – the allergen may be found in the product due to potential cross-contamination by using a shared processing facility with other products that contain that allergen. ○ **Free From** – an analysis has been completed to verify the allergen is not found in the product. ○ **Not intentionally or inherently included** – the allergen is not found in the product, but an analysis was not completed to verify that the allergen is not present. An analysis is not required because the allergen was not added during processing and is not inherently or naturally found in the product. ○ **Undeclared** – the vendor has decided not to declare the allergen as present or not present for the product. **FNS does not recommend this entry as it may impact a school district's willingness to purchase this material**. Before selecting this declaration, please contact USDAFoods@usda.gov to determine if another declaration would be appropriate. - The level of containment is requested for all nine major allergens. If information for any of these allergens is missing, the **Allergen Relevant Data Provided?** attribute will be reviewed. If 'True' has been selected, this indicates that you have provided all the allergen information that is available for the product and that all allergen related values not populated are either **not relevant** or **not required** to be populated for the product. **Sesame is exempt from being declared until the FDA requirement goes into effect on January 1, 2023, so labeling of sesame as an allergen will not be required until that time.** If a declaration for sesame is available, it can be shared at any time using the Allergen Type Code 'Sesame Seeds and Their Derivatives (AS)'.
Certifications		
Kosher	Diet Type Code → Kosher Diet Type Certification Agency → *Certification*	For products that are certified kosher or halal, the name of the specific certification or certifying agency is requested (i.e. Orthodox Union or OU).
Halal	Diet Type Code → Halal	

USDA Foods Database Field	Attribute Name	Additional Information
	Diet Type Certification Agency → *Certification*	• The certification or certifying agency must be provided for all products that are required to be kosher. These products can be identified by the letter (K) in the **USDA Foods Description** on the [List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting.](#)
Additional Information		
Ingredients	Ingredient Statement	A list of all ingredients that are included in the product. The ingredients should be listed in descending order by weight, so the ingredient that weighs the most in the product is listed first, and the ingredient that weighs the least is listed last.
Last Updated	Last Modified	This date will be automatically generated via GDSN® any time an update is made, or a new item is published to the USDA GLN.

Verifying Publication
- FNS will review all data received and provide a response using the following CIC statuses:
  - **Received:** The product has been received and has passed GDSN® validations but FNS has not completed the audit process to review the data for discrepancies.
  - **Review**: The product does not pass GDSN® validations or has failed the FNS audit process and therefore, has data discrepancies to be reviewed and addressed by the vendor. The details and reason for Review status will be transmitted via CIC999.
  - **Synchronized**: The product has been fully accepted and loaded into FNS's internal system. This response will be sent after all validations and audits have been successfully completed and no additional information is needed.
  - **Rejected:** FNS no longer wants to sync this item to their internal system or item has been delisted by FNS.
- After the initial USDA Foods Database release, vendors can expect a response within 45 days of publication. Should that timeline change updates will be made here.
- Depending on your data pool provider and how you are connecting, there are various ways you can receive CIC status responses. Please review how these messages are received and ensure you are monitoring this information regularly. **This will be the main communication channel for FNS to provide feedback and inform you on the status of your submission.**
  - If you receive a warning or error message and are unsure what it means or you **do not** receive a CIC status indicating your publication has been accepted/received, please contact your data pool provider for technical assistance. If you are unable to resolve the issue with your data pool provider, please contact USDAFoods@usda.gov.
- Once data is published and confirmed that it is synchronized, you only need to make updates if:
  - The product information has changed, and corrections are needed.
  - USDA requests that updates be made based on the required attributes.
  - The product is no longer being sold to the USDA. In this instance, we ask that you no longer publish the item to the USDA so that it can be removed from the USDA Foods Database once all product inventory has been used.