



## Nutrition, Allergen, and Ingredient Reporting through GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network (GS1 GDSN) Tip Sheet for USDA Foods Suppliers

### Points to Remember

- The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires USDA to communicate USDA Foods product information to participants of the National School Lunch Program. Reporting nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information to GS1 GDSN will fulfill this requirement.
- Select products packed in institutional sized packaging for the National School Lunch Program are impacted by the GS1 GDSN requirement.
  - ✓ Fresh produce, bulk products for further processing, and most consumer-sized products are exempt from GS1 GDSN requirement.
  - ✓ The items that must be reported to GS1 GDSN are specified in the [List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting](#).
- By December 31, 2021: mandatory compliance with the GS1 GDSN requirement for vendors supplying select USDA Foods for the National School Lunch Program.

### Timeline for Compliance

- **Phase 1:** Vendors that are awarded contracts between **September 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021** are required to report product information to GS1 GDSN by **December 31, 2021**, if the contract includes deliveries in 2022 of items on the [List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting](#).
- **Phase 2:** Vendors that are awarded contracts *after* December 31, 2021 will be required to report product information to GS1 GDSN within 20 days after receiving an award for any item on the [List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting](#).
- Vendors may begin data synchronization with the USDA FNS Food Distribution Global Location Number (GLN – 0861583000319) on September 1, 2021.

### USDA Foods Vendors' Responsibilities

- Must subscribe to a [certified data pool](#) to submit product information in GS1 GDSN.
- Report the following information to GS1 GDSN:
  - ✓ Brand name
  - ✓ Nutrition Facts and serving size\*
  - ✓ Allergen information
  - ✓ Ingredients

- ✓ Kosher certification
- ✓ USDA material code number
- ✓ Additional information as required by GS1 GDSN (includes product information typically found on the product label)
- Ensure information reported in GS1 GDSN is current and accurate.
- Non-manufacturers (brokers) are responsible for ensuring sub-contractors' product information is reported to GS1 GDSN and remains current and accurate.

**\*Important Note on Serving Sizes:** Nutrition information is preferred to be reported in serving sizes used in USDA Child Nutrition programs.

- ✓ **Fruit, Vegetables, and Legumes:** ½ cup
- ✓ **Grains and Meat/Meat Alternates:** Ounce equivalents, as specified in the [List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting](#)

If a vendor chooses to report a different serving size (e.g. 100 grams), the vendor must additionally report the weight of ½ cup or ounce equivalents as specified in the *List of Required Products for GS1 GDSN Reporting*. USDA is partnering with the University of Maryland to calculate nutrition information using the weight provided by the vendor.

### Monitoring and Compliance

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service will verify that information has been reported in GS1 GDSN by awarded vendors, and that the information provided is complete.
- If a vendor does not report product information to GS1 GDSN, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service will contact the vendor for corrective action.
- If a vendor fails to take corrective action to report product information in GS1 GDSN, the contract will be terminated for non-compliance.
- On a monthly basis, USDA will transfer nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information from GS1 GDSN to a non-editable report, which will be available on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's website.

### Resources

- A webinar recording, webinar slides, Frequently Asked Questions, and additional resources can be found at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food/gs1-gdsn-requirement>

**Questions?** Please submit questions to [USDAFoods@usda.gov](mailto:USDAFoods@usda.gov).