

Creditable Infant Formulas

Infant formula is a required component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for **infants** (ages 0-11 months old) who are not breastfed or are partially breastfed. In order for infant formula to be **creditable**, meaning that it will be counted towards a reimbursable meal or snack, it must be **FDA regulated and iron-fortified**.

What Does FDA Regulated Mean?

FDA regulated means that the formula meets strict nutrition and safety standards. **All infant formulas sold in the United States are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**. Sponsors and Providers who purchase infant formulas from in-person retailers in the United States or US-based vendors can be assured that the formula is FDA regulated.

What Does Iron-Fortified Mean?

To be considered iron-fortified, **an infant formula must have 1 mg of iron or more per 100 calories of formula** when prepared using the label instructions. You can find this information on the **Nutrition Facts label**. Most infant formula nutrition facts label will show a serving size of 100 calories. If that is the case, an iron amount of 1 mg or more will mean that the formula is adequately iron-fortified!

Sponsors and Providers of the CACFP are required to **offer at least one FDA regulated iron-fortified infant formula**. Families can choose whether to accept the offered formula or to decline and provide their own breast milk or formula that is FDA regulated and iron-fortified. This must be documented on the Child Enrollment Form for each infant in care.

Common Questions

Is there a list of approved infant formulas we can use?

Answer: No, the amount of new infant formula that comes onto the market makes it impossible to have an accurate list of approved infant formulas. As long as the formula is FDA regulated and iron-fortified, the formula will be creditable.

Are soy-based, low lactose, or lactose-free formulas creditable?

Answer: Yes, as long as they are FDA regulated and iron-fortified, they are creditable.

What if one of my families want to provide a non-FDA regulated or non-iron-fortified infant formula for their infant?

Answer: Unless the participant has a Medical Statement that is signed by a licensed healthcare professional, the meals and snacks served to this participant will be non-reimbursable because the infant formula is not creditable.

What is the FDA Exempt Infant Formula List and are formulas on this list creditable?

Answer: The [FDA Exempt Infant Formula List](#) includes formulas intended for infants with unusual medical or dietary problems, such as inborn errors of metabolism or low birth weight. These formulas are not creditable unless the participant has a signed Medical Statement requiring their use.