

MEMORANDUM

MEMO TO: All Authorized Utah WIC Vendors

FROM: Chris Furner, Utah WIC Program Manager

DATE: January 12, 2015

MEMO #: FY 2015-3

SUBJECT: **Split Tender Transactions with the WIC Cash-Value Voucher**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has required policy and procedural changes as part of the implementation of the Final Rule for Revisions in the WIC Food Packages. While many aspects of this regulation have already been implemented in Utah, the provision 246.12 (h)(3)(xi) requiring vendors to allow split tender transactions of the WIC cash-value voucher (CVV) has an implementation deadline of April 1, 2015. This provision requires retailers to allow WIC customers to pay the difference when a fruit or vegetable purchase exceeds the value of the CVV.

When a WIC customer would like to purchase more produce than the maximum value of the WIC CVV, stores must allow the customer to pay difference with another form of tender within the same transaction. Since Utah food purchases are taxable and WIC purchases are tax exempt, any purchase above the value of the CVV must be charged sales tax. We understand that this is a complicating factor for many point of sale systems. If your point of sale (POS) system is not currently able to allow this type of split tender transaction, some reprogramming may be necessary to be in compliance with this regulation by April 1st. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. This change however, will benefit both the WIC participant and the retailer by making it easier for the participant to receive the maximum value out of the WIC benefits to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables, while also allowing WIC vendors to maximize sales. Last spring, the Utah Food Industry Association alerted its members of this upcoming change to allow for some time for any reprogramming that might be necessary. We appreciate your efforts to be in compliance with this regulation.

Stores who already have the capability to allow split tender for WIC may implement this earlier than April 1, 2015 if they choose, but WIC participants will not be informed of this change until April 1st and beyond.

When redeeming a WIC CVV check, please remember that the WIC customer still has the option to remove an item if they do not wish to pay for the excess produce. The customer must be given the option to pay the difference or remove an item. When recording the purchase price, the vendor must ensure that the purchase price written on the CVV in the "Pay Exactly" box does **not** exceed the maximum value printed on the CVV. Any amount that is paid by the customer with another form of tender should not be included in the price that is written on the CVV. The WIC program cannot pay CVV checks with a purchase price that exceeds the maximum amount. WIC clients will be reminded not to sign any CVV with a purchase price written on it which is higher than the maximum value listed.

Please ensure all cashiers and customer service personnel are trained on this new policy and the procedures to ensure this is done properly on your POS system. We have updated our vendor training materials to reflect this policy change. The updated materials have been posted to the Utah WIC Website at: <http://www.health.utah.gov/wic/vendors.php>
The Utah WIC Vendor Training Video (DVD and online) will be updated at a later date.

Within the next several weeks, printed copies of the revised vendor training materials will be sent to stores as part of the required annual WIC training requirement. A separate memo will be sent at that time with instructions for completing the annual training.

For your information, Linda Schiele has retired from the State of Utah. The WIC Vendor Coordinator position at the State is currently vacant. In the Interim, Rick Wardle and Chris Furner are covering these duties and are the contact people for Utah WIC vendors. Rick Wardle can be reached via email at rwardle@utah.gov and Chris Furner can be reached at cfurner@utah.gov. Please do not hesitate to email or call us at (801) 538-6960, option 3, if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support of the Utah WIC Program.

cc: WIC Directors
Local Agency Retail Coordinators

