Creditable Infant Formulas in the CCFP

The CCFP Infant Meal Pattern requires a site to offer at least one iron-fortified infant formula that is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA has strict nutrition and safety standards for infant formula to make sure infants are getting the nutrients they need for healthy growth.

All infant formulas sold in the United States are regulated by the FDA, whether they are produced domestically or internationally. Infant formula manufacturers are required to register and "notify" an infant formula to FDA at least 90 days before marketing the infant formula in the United States. The FDA maintains a list of "Non-Exempt" infant formulas (not all-inclusive) intended for healthy, term infants here: FDA "Non- Exempt" infant formulas.

"Exempt infant formulas" are labeled for use by infants who have inborn errors of metabolism, i.e. phenylketonuria, low birth weight or who otherwise have unusual medical or dietary problems. More information and a list of FDA Exempt Infant Formulas can be found at: Exempt infant formulas marketed in the United States

Infant formula served in a CCFP reimbursable meal must be FDA approved, should not be on the FDA Exempt Infant Formula list, and must be iron fortified.

How to determine if an infant formula is eligible for reimbursement:

1. Ensure that the formula is not an FDA Exempt Infant Formula, which is labeled for use by infants who have inborn errors of metabolism, low birth weight or who otherwise have unusual medical or dietary problems, as defined in 21 CFR 107.3. FDA Exempt Infant Formulas are special infant formulas that are meant only for babies who have an unusual medical or dietary restriction. An exempt infant formula can only be served as part of a reimbursable meal if the substitution is supported by a medical statement signed by the infant's health care provider.

2. Look for "Infant Formula with Iron" or a similar statement on the front of the formula package.

   All iron-fortified infant formulas must have this type of statement on the package.



3. Use the nutrition facts label as a guide to ensure that the formula is iron-fortified. The nutritive values of each formula are listed on the product's nutrition facts label.

   To be considered iron-fortified, an infant formula must have 1mg of iron or more per 100 calories of formula when prepared in accordance with label directions.



For more information, view USDA's Feeding Infants in the CACFP guide