



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Public Health Women's & Children's Health Section**  
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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

April 5, 2002

**CACFP 02-15**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Institutions Participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

**FROM:** Arnette Cowan, MS, RD, LDN  
 Head, Special Nutrition Programs

**SUBJECT:** **Cheese Substitutes, 226 : 20-14, and Credit in gButter Sasy a Mat/Mat Alternate  
 in Child Nutrition Programs, 226 : 20-15**

This memo addresses questions covering the removal of cheese alternate products  
 These questions resulted from the rule:

1. Will all USDA Child Nutrition Programs be allowed to use cheese substitute products?

Yes. This change affects all Child Nutrition Programs, including the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the Child and Adult Care Food (CACFP).

This will improve program operations by:

- allowing food service managers access to numbers of products since cheese substitute products are widely produced; and (b) protecting the nutritional integrity of food served to children since these products are consistent with FDA standards.

2. Will cheese food substitutes and cheese spread substitutes receive the same credit as cheese foods and cheese spread?

Yes. In each case, these products will receive the same credit as cheese foods and spreads (two ounces will provide one ounce of equivalent meat/meat alternate).

- The term “cheese product” is a category name, and any food item that carries only this name is not creditable toward the meal pattern requirement. Similarly, any product labeled as “imitation” will not meet USDA standards.



**Crediting of Soy Butter as a Meat/Meat Alternate in Child Nutrition Programs**

Soy butter as a meat/meat alternate in the Child Nutrition Programs provides a good alternate to peanut butter for those who are allergic to peanuts. Soy butter is made from soy nuts, and crediting has been provided in meal pattern guidance under the category of "Peanut Butter or Other Nut or Seed Butter." The same minimum quantities as peanut butter should be used.

If you have questions, please contact your regional consultant.

AC/ERB/clg

cc: SNP Staff  
Auditors