



United States Department of Agriculture

New Requirements for USDA Vendors Regarding Reporting of Nutrition, Allergen, and Ingredient Information for USDA Foods in Schools

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**USDA Foods
in Schools**

March 31, 2021

Overview

- Project background
- Partnerships and existing infrastructure
- Nutrition, allergen, and ingredient requirements
- Data pools and GS1 system
- Accessing vendor information after submission
- Status of project and next steps



Project Background

- FNS is working to fulfill a requirement to make nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information available for USDA Foods products for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) program participants
 - Section 14 (b)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (7 U.S.C 1762a(b)(2))



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Legislative Language

(b) Nutrition Quality and Content Information

(1) The Secretary shall maintain and continue to improve the overall nutritional quality of entitlement commodities provided to schools to assist the schools in improving the nutritional content of meals.

(2) The Secretary shall-

(A) require that nutritional content information labels be placed on packages or shipments of entitlements commodities provided to the schools; or

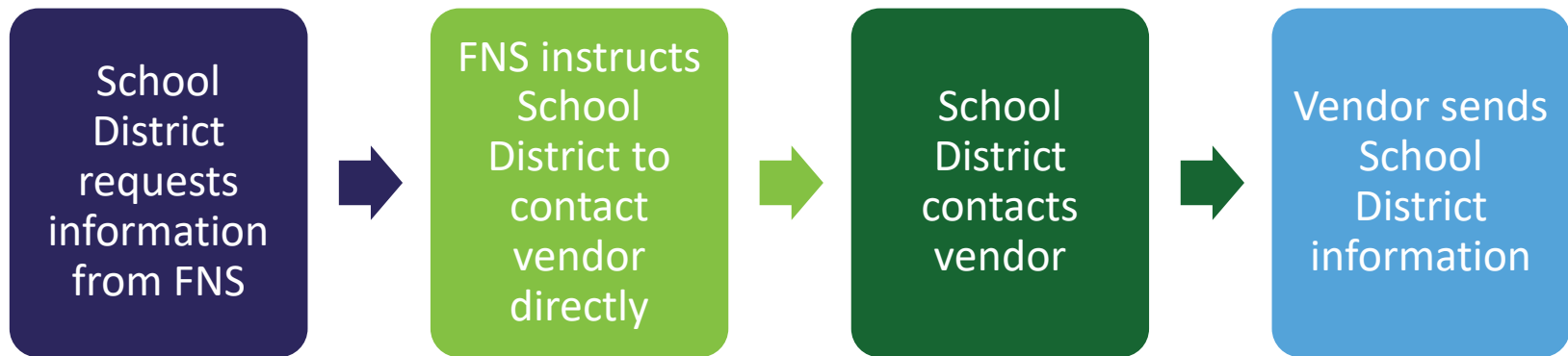
(B) otherwise provide nutritional content information regarding the commodities provided to the schools.

Food Labeling Exemptions

- Foods in institutional packaging that are sold to schools are exempt from FDA Food Labeling Requirements
- States/School districts receive food that may not contain nutrition, allergen, or ingredient information to inform their menu planning decisions



Current Process to Receive Vendor-Specific Nutrition Information



Overview of the GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network™ and Data Pools



The GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network™ (GDSN)

When product information is accessible and accurate, your business wins.



USDA
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What is GDSN®?

The GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network™ (GDSN®) is the world's largest product data network. GDSN makes it possible for any company, in any market, to share high-quality product information seamlessly. Because companies of all sizes need the same thing—timely and reliable product information—to ultimately benefit consumers and patients.

Facts and figures

- Launched in 2004
- Nearly 35 million products
- More than 60 thousand registered Global Location Numbers (GLNs) indicating about the same number of companies using GDSN currently



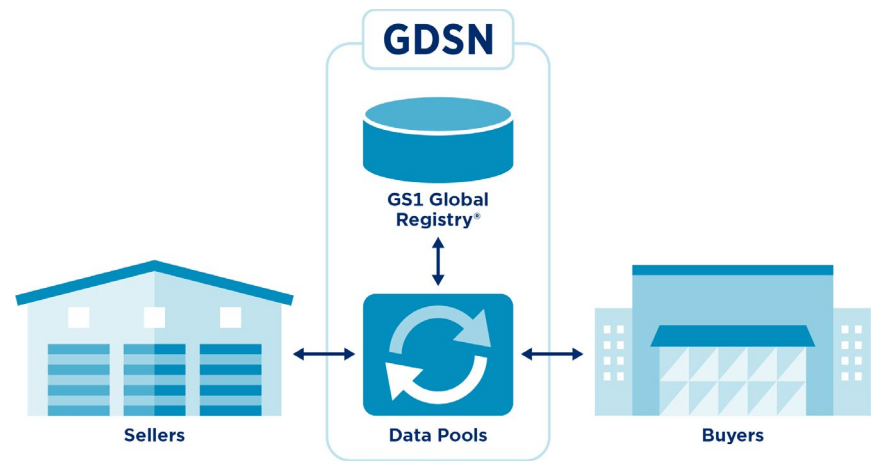
How GDSN[®] Works

Any company that needs to send or receive product information can take advantage of GDSN[®] by **subscribing to a data pool**.

Your data pool will enable you to **set up your product content and synchronize it with all your trading partners**, so you can plug in reliable data for all markets at one time.

Data pools are certified by GS1, and data in **GDSN follow GS1 Standards**.

GS1 is the global organization for product identification and product data.



How It Works: The Trading Partners

GDSN® works via a network of interoperable data pools and the GS1 Global Registry® to exchange data from trading partners.

- 1** Suppliers prepare internal data and systems to match GS1 Standards (GTIN®, GLN, etc).
- 2** Suppliers upload their data to a GDSN-certified source data pool of their choice (in house or third party).
- 3** The data pool sends basic information about each item (or party) to the GS1 Global Registry.
The GS1 Global Registry holds this information and the location of each item's (or party's) data pool.
- 4** Data recipients subscribe to the supplier item(s) or party information in the GS1 Global Registry via their chosen GDSN-certified data pool.
The GS1 Global Registry identifies the source data pool of the requested item(s) or party.
- 5** Using a synchronization engine, trading partners perform the publication/subscription process.
Thereafter, item (or party) information can be automatically and continuously synchronized between their respective data pools.



Project Partners



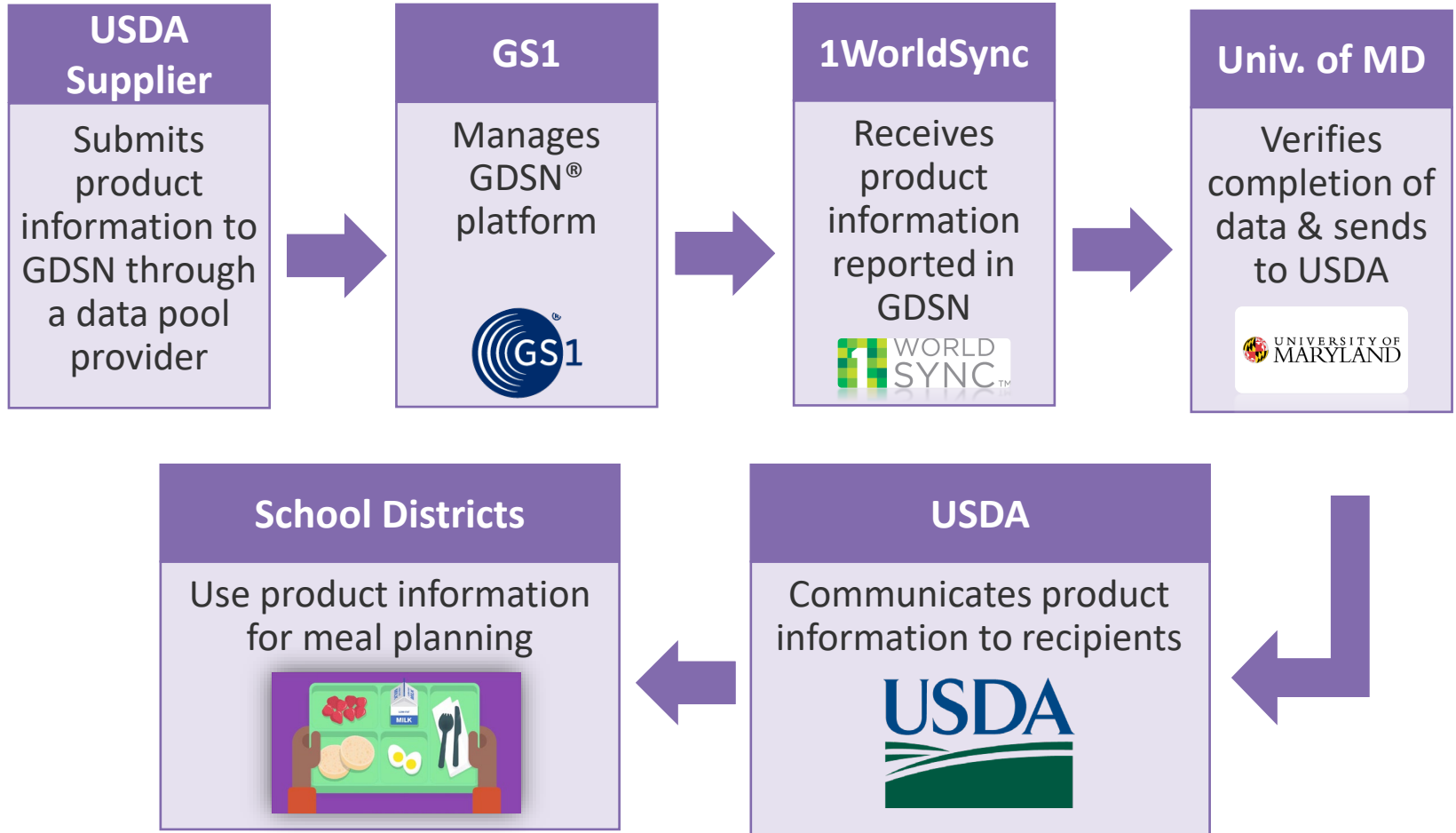
USDA Project Partners



- Existing USDA partnership with GS1 through Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Branded Foods Database
- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
 - Communicates nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information to school districts
- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
 - Holds the contract with supplier and enforces contract requirements



Project Partners



Submission Requirements



Products Requiring GDSN® Submission



- **Included:** Products packed for **foodservice** for the **National School Lunch Program**

- **Examples:**

- Peaches, Canned – #10 can
- Corn, Frozen – 30 LB case
- Chicken, Cut-Up, Frozen – 10 LB bag
- Cheese, Shredded Mozzarella, Frozen – 30 LB case

Products Not Requiring GDSN® Submission



- **Not included:** fresh produce, most consumer-sized products, bulk products for further processing
- **Examples:**
 - Apples, Fresh
 - Vegetable Soup, Canned – 24/#1 can
 - Chicken, Large Birds – Bulk Pounds
 - Cheese, Natural American – 500 LB barrel



Possible Exemptions

- USDA is considering exemptions for products that are in Food Data Central (USDA Standard Reference database), ***and do not*** have “May Contain” allergen statements
 - ✓ Canned/Frozen Fruit & Vegetables
 - ✓ Rice
- AMS will survey USDA suppliers on the prevalence of “May Contain” statements for select product categories



Information Required in GDSN®

- Brand name
- Nutrition Facts and serving size
- Allergen information
- Ingredients
- Kosher certification
- USDA material code number
- Additional information as required by GDSN®
(includes product information typically found on the product label)



Serving Size Requirement

- Nutrition information preferred to be provided in serving sizes used in USDA Child Nutrition programs
 - ✓ Fruit, Vegetables, and Legumes: **½ cup**
 - ✓ Grains and Meat/Meat Alternates: **ounce equivalents**

Serving Size Requirement

- Alternate serving sizes may be provided (e.g. 100 grams)
 - ✓ Vendor must additionally provide the **weight** of the preferred Child Nutrition serving size
 - ½ cup Vegetarian Beans = 130 grams
 - ✓ Detailed list will be provided with the preferred Child Nutrition serving size for each item

Timing of Submission

- Contracts awarded prior to December 31, 2021:
 - ✓ Product information must be reported in GDSN[®] by **December 31st** if the contract includes deliveries in 2022

- Contracts awarded after December 31, 2021:
 - ✓ Product information must be reported in GDSN[®] **within 20 days after a vendor is awarded a contract**

Submission Requirements

- Vendors will be responsible for ensuring accuracy of information
- Non-manufacturers (brokers) will be responsible for reporting sub-contractors' information



Monitoring for Compliance

- UMD will review information reported in GDSN[®] to verify:
 - ✓ Information is complete for all required fields
- USDA FNS will review information received from UMD to verify:
 - ✓ Information is provided from awarded vendors
- Vendors with missing information will be contacted by data pool provider and/or USDA AMS for corrective action

Monitoring for Compliance



- If vendor fails to report information in GDSN[®], contract will be terminated for non-compliance



GS1 Global Directory



1WorldSync – Item Management (IM)

WORLD SYNC ITEM MANAGEMENT

Enhanced Classic

LAUNCH APPLICATIONS

Simple Search Enter Item ID, Item Name or Product Description

Hi, Scott 0838016008013 1WS PreProd3 IP GLN 1

ITEMS LINKS PUBLICATIONS SUBSCRIPTIONS REPORTS WORKLIST LISTS

Import Items Add Item This option is used to add a new item to your catalog.

Export Items

Upload Files Add New Item

DASHBOARD

Actionable Items

Draft State	Not Published	Published	Recipient Rejected Items	Recipient Requests Review	Synchronization Errors
49	958	1,455	37	24	70

Content Readiness

Showing 1-8 of 8 | Data as of 09/24/2020 11:40:38

RECIPIENT	ITEMS REQUESTED	PUBLISHED	NOT PUBLISHED	READINESS	NON-EXISTING ITEMS	DUE DATE
ECOMM READINESS	469	-	-	0%	-	-
The Kroger Co.	14	9	5	71%	0	-
1WS PreProd3 RTL GLN6	6	0	3	100%	3	-
1WS PreProd3 RTL GLN8	2	0	1	0%	1	-
1WS PreProd3 Amazon RTL 1	7	0	3	100%	4	05/11/2020 00:00:00
1WS PreProd3 Alibaba Recipient GLN	16	8	7	80%	1	05/18/2020 00:00:00

Announcements

- New 1WorldSync Customer Community [more](#)
- 2020 1WorldSync Power of 1 Virtual Summit [more](#)

Recent Transactions

Filter All 50

- Item Modify for 01065005005190(US) was successful 09/24/2020 03:00:31
- Item Modify for 01065005005190(US) was successful 09/24/2020 02:59:13
- Synchronization of a MODIFY for 00099932142520(US) was completed with warnings 09/23/2020 14:10:55
- Item Modify for 00099932142520(US) was successful with warnings. Please review 09/23/2020 13:53:39

The start up screen offers a dashboard showing various pieces of information as to a user's product catalog status. To begin entering an item, the user would select Add Item.



Base information

The screenshot shows a 'Add Item' form with the following fields and values:

- Item ID ***: 00838016095556
- Item Name ***: Scott's BBQ Chicken Fingers, Breaded 3oz
- Target Market ***: UNITED STATES
- Product Type**: Each
- Start Availability Date ***: 09/24/2020
- GDSN compliant item ?**: Yes (toggle is turned on)

Additional details: A green play button is visible next to the Item ID field. The Item Name field has a language dropdown set to 'English'. The Start Availability Date field has a calendar icon and a date range selector set to 'ALL'. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom of the form.

On the Add Item pop up, the user would enter basic product information to establish the key pieces of information that will need to be entered into the system.

Navigation and Playlist

The screenshot displays the World Sync application interface. On the left, a navigation panel titled 'Item Data' contains a section 'Item Attribute Sets' which is circled in purple. The main content area shows the 'Item Data' form for 'Scott's BBQ Chicken Fingers, Breaded 3oz'. The 'Playlists' section at the top of the form is also circled in purple. A central message says 'Oops! It looks like you haven't added any digital assets yet.' The form includes fields for 'Item Name', 'Product Description', 'Item ID', 'Target Market', 'Marketing Message', and 'Trade Item Feature Benefit'. The 'Marketing Message' and 'Trade Item Feature Benefit' sections are expanded, showing their respective content and language dropdowns.

The item is now ready for the user to enter product information.

★ The user can choose the Playlist(s) they want to use as templates for information entry. The attributes shown on the screen will be based on the requirements of the Playlist(s) chosen.

★★ The left navigation panel allows quick access to the various groups of attributes.

Allergen Information

The screenshot shows a web form for entering allergen information. At the top, there is a section titled "Allergen Related Information" with fields for "Allergen Specification Agency", "Allergen Specification Name", "Allergen Statement", and a "Select" dropdown menu. Below this is a checkbox labeled "Allergen Relevant Data Provided?" which is checked and set to "True". A purple arrow points from this checkbox to the right-hand text. Below the main form are two expandable sections, each titled "Allergen". The first section shows "Allergen Type Code" set to "Other gluten Containing Grain and Gluten ..." and "Level Of Containment" set to "Contains". A purple arrow points from this section to the right-hand text. The second section shows "Allergen Type Code" set to "Milk and its Derivatives" and "Level Of Containment" set to "May contain". A purple arrow points from this section to the right-hand text.

Allergen containment can be provided for each allergen the supplier has information. This pair of attributes is repeated for each allergen being provided.

Once all information is entered, the supplier will indicate that all is provided (True).

Child Nutrition Label (CN Label)

▼ Child Nutrition Label

Child Nutrition Expiration DateTime: 09/24/2025

Child Nutrition Label Statement: One 3.00 oz fried breaded chicken tenderloin portion provides 2.00 oz equivalent meat and 1.00 oz equivalent grains for child nutrition meal pattern equivalents. (Use of this logo and agreement authorized by the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA 03/25).

Child Nutrition Product Identification: 111111

English

▶ Child Nutrition Label Document

▼ Child Nutrition Qualifier

Child Nutrition Qualifier Code: Meat or Meat Alternative

Child Nutrition Qualified Value: 3 Ounce

85 Gram

Child Nutrition Value: 2 Ounce

CN Label information can be added if available. A link to the CN Label image can be provided in the Child Nutrition Label Document attributes.



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Product Formulation Statement (PFS)

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based form for a Product Formulation Statement (PFS). The form is organized into several sections, each with a dropdown arrow on the left. The sections are: Product Formulation Statement, Creditable Ingredient, Creditable Ingredient Details, Creditable Alternative Protein, Creditable Vegetable, Creditable Grains Information, Non Creditable Grain, and Creditable Grain. The 'Product Formulation Statement' section includes fields for Regulatory Body Code, Product Formulation Statement Description, Total Portion Weight As Purchased, and a dropdown menu. The 'Product Formulation Statement Document' link is circled in red. The 'Creditable Ingredient' section includes fields for Creditable Ingredient Type Code, Total Creditable Ingredient Type Amount, and a dropdown menu. The 'Creditable Ingredient Details' section includes fields for Creditable Ingredient Description, Creditable Amount, Creditable Ingredient Amount Per Raw Portion, and Yield Servings Per Unit. The 'Creditable Alternative Protein' section includes fields for Contained Alternative Protein Percent, creditableAlternativeProteinPerPortion, and a dropdown menu. The 'Creditable Vegetable' section includes fields for Vegetable Subgroup Code, Total Vegetable Subgroup Amount, and a dropdown menu. The 'Creditable Grains Information' section includes fields for Creditable Grain Standard, Creditable Grain Amount Per Portion, Does Trade Item Contain Noncreditable Grains, and Does Trade Item Meet Whole Grain Rich Criteria. The 'Non Creditable Grain' section includes fields for Non Creditable Grain Amount, Non Creditable Grain Description, and two dropdown menus. The 'Creditable Grain' section includes fields for Creditable Grain Group Code and Exhibit Group.

PFS information can be added if available.

A link to the PFS document can be provided in the Product Formulation Statement Document attributes.

Stakeholders: Accessing Vendor Nutrition Information



Accessing Nutrition Information

- Vendor information will be posted on the USDA FNS website in a non-editable Excel spreadsheet
- States/School districts will be able to access the latest nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information at-will
 - Reduces burden on AMS, FNS, and vendors to send information at various times to different school districts

Accessing Nutrition Information for USDA Foods



1. Select Food Category

2. Select Material Code

USDA Foods in Schools Product Information				
Food Category:	Vegetables			
Food Material:	100336 Spaghetti Sauce, Low-sodium, Canned			
VENDORS	RED GOLD INC	Pink Gold	Orange Gold	Violet Gold
NUTRIENTS				
Serving Size:	1/2 Cup	1/2 Cup	1/2 Cup	1/2 Cup
Grams/serving:	126	126	126	126
Calories (kcal):	45	46	47	48
Total fat (g):	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Saturated fat (g):	0	0	0	0
Trans fat (g):	0	0	0	0
Cholesterol (mg):	0	0	0	0
Total Carbohydrate (g):	9	10	11	12
Sugars (g):	6	7	8	9
Dietary Fiber (g):	2	3	4	5
Protein (g):	2	3	4	5
Sodium (mg):	140	141	142	143

3. Spreadsheet displays each vendor that supplies the selected material along with each nutrient



Accessing Nutrition Information for USDA Foods

ALLERGENS				
Egg Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Fish Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Milk Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Peanut Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Shellfish Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Soy Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Tree Nut Allergen:	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM	FREE_FROM
Wheat Allergen:	NO_DECLARATION	NO_DECLARATION	NO_DECLARATION	NO_DECLARATION
KOSHER				
Kosher:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kosher Certification:	Orthodox Union	Orthodox Union	Orthodox Union	Orthodox Union
INGREDIENTS				
USDA Foods in Schools Product Information	Tomato Concentrate, Water, High Fructose Corn Syrup, Modified Food Starch, Soybean Oil, Salt, Spices, Citric Acid, Dried Onion, Dried Garlic, Natural Flavor	Tomato Concentrate, Water, High Fructose Corn Syrup, Modified Food Starch, Soybean Oil, Salt, Spices, Citric Acid, Dried Onion, Dried Garlic, Natural Flavor	Tomato Concentrate, Water, High Fructose Corn Syrup, Modified Food Starch, Soybean Oil, Salt, Spices, Citric Acid, Dried Onion, Dried Garlic, Natural Flavor	Tomato Concentrate, Water, High Fructose Corn Syrup, Modified Food Starch, Soybean Oil, Salt, Spices, Citric Acid, Dried Onion, Dried Garlic, Natural Flavor
Last Updated:	2/11/2020	2/11/2020	2/11/2020	2/11/2020

Date
State/School
District
accessed
information
↓
3/22/2021

Date information was last updated by vendor

GS1 Project Status



GS1 Project Status

- Conducted 1st pilot – February 2020
- Hosted webinar for vendors – September 2020
- Released FAQs – October 2020
- Released Request for Information (RFI) – October 2020



Next Steps

- Conduct 2nd vendor pilot – April 2021
- Update Master Solicitation – June 2021
- Issue formal notice to industry of mandatory compliance – June 2021
- Mandatory compliance with GS1 requirement – December 2021



GS1 Pilot

- GS1 will conduct a 2nd pilot to test system functionality
 - Any vendor can participate but FNS is most interested in:
 - Vendors that supply protein foods (meat, poultry, fish, eggs)
 - Vendors that do not currently use GS1
 - Non-manufacturers (brokers)
 - Interested in participating in the pilot? Email USDAFoods@usda.gov to sign up!



Questions?
USDAFoods@usda.gov

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.