

# Maine eWIC Vendor Meeting Minutes

Conference Call: Toll-Free Dial-In Number: 877-455-0244  
Conference code: 207 287 5366

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
Meeting held the 2nd Tuesday of each month 10am ET (1hr) - except holidays

Time: 10am ET (1hr)

Attendees: Federal Partners, Contract Partners, ME WIC Vendors: Chain Stores & Independent

## Agenda items

- **Grant Application deadline** Tue March 31, 2020 for upgrading your system to be eWIC ready
- **Solutran email to non-chain stores** - ME eWIC Outreach, confirm POS system by Monday March 16th.
- **Retailers To Do List by *Mid of May*:**
  - Talk to your Electronic Cash Register system (ECR) or Point of Sale (POS) system provider and your Third-Party Processor (TTP)
    - Ask if they are eWIC certified? What state are they active with eWIC?
  - Prepare your system to accept eWIC
  - Produce Mapping
  - Create a Maine eWIC training document for your system.
- **Level 3 certifications**
  - -What is Level 3 (L3) certification?  
Certification testing is performed to validate that the POS system used by the WIC vendor processes the eWIC transaction set accurately and follows the eWIC processing rules and regulations as defined. Both POS system components and vendor, TPP, and eWIC processor processes are tested during certification testing.
  - - When will you be performing L3 certification?
    1. Mid-May: Penobscot and Piscataquis
    2. Mid- June: Kennebec, Aroostook, Hancock, Somerset, and Washington
    3. Mid-July: Cumberland, York, Androscoggin, Oxford, Knox, Waldo, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Franklin, and New Hampshire stores
      - i. Send us your Text cell phone numbers for L3 status area.
- **Vendor Agreement** - We are currently updating the Vendor Agreement to incorporate eWIC details
- **WIC Mandatory Interactive training:** Starting Mid-April: Cumberland, Kennebec, Somerset, York, and New Hampshire stores
- **Where can retailers go for questions**
  - 207-287-3991
  - [WICVendor.DHHSMECDC@maine.gov](mailto:WICVendor.DHHSMECDC@maine.gov)
- **Next Meeting:** Tue. April 14th at 10am

## Action Items for Vendor

- **Solutran is sending e-mails** to all non-chain stores to verify register information. Please respond by Monday, March 16, 2020.
- **Vendors will need to complete by *Mid of May*:**
  - Check with your Electronic Cash Register system (ECR) or Point of Sale (POS) system provider and your Third-Party Processor (TTP). Ask if they are eWIC certified? What state are they active with eWIC?
  - Prepare your system to accept eWIC
  - Produce Mapping using International Federation of Produce Standards. We require full mapping to be done. Link to the IFPS website: [www.ifpsglobal.com/Identification/PLU-Codes](http://www.ifpsglobal.com/Identification/PLU-Codes) .
  - Create a Maine eWIC training document for your system. Stores to submit training documents, including how to process transaction, balance inquiry and void. This should contain contact information for IT support. Your register provider may be able to provide some of this information.
    - Email us at [WICVendor.DHHSMECDC@maine.gov](mailto:WICVendor.DHHSMECDC@maine.gov) to provide your text cell phone numbers for L3 status area

## FAQ's

A complete list of FAQ's will be distributed in the near future once all resources have responded. Please feel free to send in any additional questions to [WICVendor.DHHSMECDC@maine.gov](mailto:WICVendor.DHHSMECDC@maine.gov) . In the meantime, below are the answers we do have.

Q: Hannaford independent question what they need to do?

A: Hannaford will share documents with independent stores

Q: Will there be BIN changes?

A: We have not heard of any.

## Maine eWIC Program: Produce Mapping (Linking) Information

The Maine WIC Program is requiring retailers to map/link produce to a Maine WIC-approved Price Look-Up (PLU) code. This means that any WIC approved fresh fruit or vegetable without an International Federation of Produce Standards (IFPS)-approved PLU must be mapped/linked to an IFPS approved PLU **prior to** your store's rollout.

Examples Include:



- Produce with a UPC bar code (e.g. prepackaged loose fruits such as blueberries or strawberries)
- A store-assigned non-IFPS PLU (e.g. cut pineapple or cantaloupe processed and packaged at your store)
- Generic IFPS approved PLU (i.e. using a generic "any fruit" or "any vegetable" PLU instead of the specific IFPS PLU assigned such as 4011 for bananas)

The Maine Approved Product List (APL) contains only Maine IFPS-approved PLUs. If store-generated UPCs for produce which start with a 2, 4 or 9 or non-approved PLU's are scanned without having been mapped/linked, the APL will not identify those products as WIC-approved food items and the WIC customer will not be able to make a produce purchase using their eWIC card.

Produce already using an IFPS PLU will continue to use that PLU. There is no need to map/link since the APL will recognize it. However, if the produce in question is using a generic "any fruit" or "any vegetable" IFPS PLU, you will need to map it to the closest specific IFPS PLU. **Do not map other foods or non-food items to PLUs.**

Items containing more than a single type of produce may be mapped to an IFPS-approved PLU of one of the produce items in the mix. For example, a container of cut-up melons (contains a mixture of watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew) can be mapped to 4049 for cantaloupe.

### Store Responsibility:

- Map/link all required fresh fruits and vegetables
- Contact your Electronic Cash Register (ECR) Provider for specific instructions on how to map/link produce as every ECR is different
- Ensure store personnel are trained to address issues that might occur

### Question about eWIC?

The Maine WIC Program is looking forward to partnering with its vendors to make the transition to eWIC as easy as possible. Should you have any questions about eWIC, please send them to the following email address: [WICVendor.D.HHSMECD.C@maine.gov](mailto:WICVendor.D.HHSMECD.C@maine.gov).

### eWIC Updates

Please visit us at [www.maine.gov/WIC](http://www.maine.gov/WIC) for the latest updates and additional information on the progress of the eWIC roll-out.

Link to IFPS website: [www.ifpsglobal.com/Identification/PLU-Codes](http://www.ifpsglobal.com/Identification/PLU-Codes)