

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Child Nutrition Labels

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) offers a voluntary technical assistance program called the Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program, for food companies who manufacture main dish products, which contribute to the meat/meat alternate component of the meal pattern requirements, and juice and juice drink products which contain at least fifty percent full-strength juice by volume. Examples of these products are: beef patties, pizzas, breaded fish portions, other main dish items, and some products such as grape drink, fruit punch, and juice drink bars.

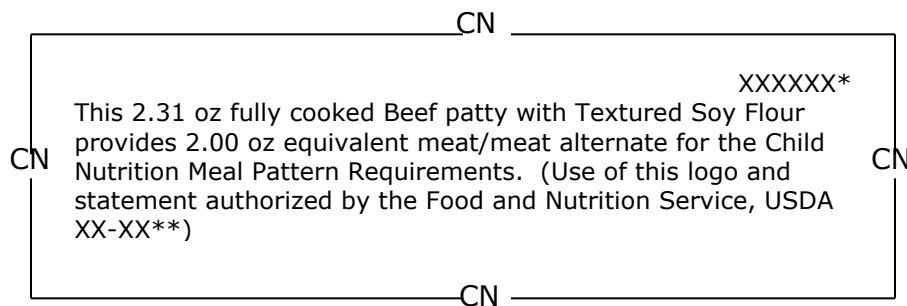
The CN labeling process involves a review of the manufacturer's recipe to determine the contribution that a serving of the commercially prepared product makes toward the meal pattern requirements. CN labels state a product's contribution toward the meal pattern requirements.

CN labeled products are usually packaged in bulk quantities. These foods are commonly purchased by schools and institutions that serve meals to large groups of people. CN labeled products are available only from wholesale distributors.

A CN label will always contain the following:

- The distinctive CN border;
- The meal pattern contribution statement;
- A unique six digit product identification number (in the upper right hand corner);
- The USDA/FNS authorization statement; and
- The month and year of final FNS approval (at the end of the authorization statement).

A CN label on a product does not mean that a food provides an entire serving of a meal component. When using CN labeled products, be sure that the amount served meets the CACFP meal pattern quantity requirements. CN labels do not address the nutritional value of a product. They only address a product's contribution to the meal pattern. The purpose of a CN label is not to provide nutrition information. For information on the food's nutritive value, review the "Nutrition Facts" label, the ingredient and/or the manufacturer's nutrient analysis sheet.



* CN identification number
** Month & year of approval

Note: The Xs in the sample CN logo are only used to demonstrate the placement of the CN identification number and the final date. If you receive a CN labeled product containing all Xs (or other non-number symbols) or all zeros as the CN identification number, that label is not a valid CN label. If a CN label is not valid, FNS cannot provide a warranty for its use towards meal pattern requirements.