



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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National Office Food Restrictions
USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

September 4, 2025

Idaho is writing to respectfully request an adjustment to the current implementation date of January 1, 2026, by extending it 45 days to February 15, 2026.

From our perspective, it is most prudent to move the effective date to February 15 rather than January 1 for the following reasons:

- **Retailer operations:** The weeks leading up to and immediately following January 1 represent the busiest time of the year for retailers. Adding new requirements during this period would place additional strain on their already high operational demands.
- **Year-end inventory:** Many retailers are conducting year-end closeouts and inventory reconciliations at this time. A February implementation would allow them to transition once those critical processes are complete.
- **Compliance and consistency:** Delaying implementation ensures that all parties can begin at the same time, providing a stronger foundation for consistent compliance and effective adoption across the board.

Our goal is to implement this change effectively and in full collaboration with all stakeholders. We believe that aligning on a February 15 start date will better position everyone for success while minimizing disruption during retailers' peak operational period.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this adjustment and look forward to continuing to work together toward a smooth and successful implementation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alex J. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alex J. Adams, PharmD, MPH
Director
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare