

Submitting Food and Beverage Products for Approval: Connecticut's List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage includes commercial food products that meet the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) and commercial beverage products that meet the [state beverage requirements](#) of Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes and the beverage requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Smart Snacks nutrition standards](#). The CSDE reviews foods and beverages for compliance with these state and federal nutrition standards.

To submit a commercial food or beverage product to the CSDE for review, provide a PDF of the actual product package, artwork for the product package, or a product specification sheet. The CSDE prefers that the submission includes the **actual product packaging** because it contains the most complete and accurate information.

The product submission must include the following:

1. **Name of manufacturer**, exactly as it appears on the product label.
2. **Name of product**, exactly as it appears on the product label.
3. **Flavor or variety** of product, exactly as it appears on the product label.
4. **Nutrition Facts label**, which must include the following nutrients: calories, total fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sugars, sodium, and fiber.
5. **List of ingredients**, which **must be in a format that can be electronically copied**. Please check the PDF before submitting to ensure that the text can be copied.
6. **Actual package size**, which must list both individual serving size and actual package size. For frozen desserts, the serving size must include both **volume** (fluid ounces) and **weight** (ounces or grams) of one serving of the product.
7. **UPC code** for the **individual package** (12-digit code, i.e., 0-00000-00000-0) and **case** (14-digit code, i.e., 000-00000-00000-0) or the manufacturer product code if the product does not have a UPC code.

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8. **List of distributors** that sell the products to schools in Connecticut. The CSDE's resource, *Contact Information for Vendors Selling Foods and Beverages Listed on the Connecticut State Department of Education's List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages*, provides schools with contact information for manufacturers, brokers, and distributors that sell foods and beverages included on the List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages webpage. For any vendor not already listed, please provide the following contact information:

- contact name
- contact title
- company name
- company address (street, city, zip code)
- phone
- fax
- e-mail
- website (if available)

Please e-mail all required information to susan.fiore@ct.gov.

The CSDE will review the products and provide notification of their CNS compliance status by e-mail. The review process is typically completed within 7-10 days.

Resources

Beverage Requirements (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Beverage-Requirements>

Contact Information for Vendors Selling Foods and Beverages Listed on the Connecticut State Department of Education's List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/FBlist/Contact_Information_Vendors_Acceptable_Foods_Beverages.pdf

Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Connecticut-Nutrition-Standards>

Healthy Food Certification (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification>

List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/List-of-Acceptable-Foods-and-Beverages>

Summary of Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/CNS/Connecticut_Nutrition_Standards_Summary.pdf

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For more information, visit the CSDE's [Healthy Food Certification](#) and [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) webpages or contact the [HFC Coordinator](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/HFC/FBlist/Submitting_Food_Beverage_Products.pdf.

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Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.