

Purchasing Infant Formula for re-sale to WIC participants

The Michigan Department of Community Health - Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) provides nutritious food to more than 250,000 moms, babies, and children less than age 5 every month. Therefore, the health of our state is heavily dependent on safe and effective food delivery by WIC authorized vendors.

The Michigan WIC Program, in conjunction with The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is strongly invested in ensuring program integrity in order to better serve eligible WIC participants. An integral part of program integrity is the assurance that infant formula has been properly stored, purchased, and delivered to Michigan's infants. To this end, the Michigan WIC Program is proud to be a partner with its sister agency, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), to assure that all health and safety requirements are met with regards to infant formula purchased for the WIC Program.

The MDA is the state agency charged with the responsibility of ensuring food safety in the State of Michigan. As such they are the natural partner to assist the Michigan WIC Program's fulfillment of its responsibility to deliver safe and nutritious food to our most vulnerable populations: infants and children. Through this partnership, MDA and WIC work together to advance MDA's Mission Statement to:

"Assure the food safety, agricultural, environmental, and economic interests of the people of the State of Michigan are met through service, partnership, and collaboration."

For these reasons, the Michigan WIC Program requires that all WIC authorized full line vendors **MUST be licensed by MDA and only purchase infant formula from wholesalers, distributors, and retailers licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture or from infant formula manufacturers registered with the Food and Drug Administration.** By working with MDA, the WIC Program supports the local economy by confidently and continually assuring the largest possible number of sources of infant formula for its authorized vendors.

Because proper handling and storage conditions directly affect the quality of infant formula, the Michigan WIC program relies on the expertise of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, to license only those locations that meet specific standards.

The MDA is available to answer any questions as to whether a wholesaler, distributor, or retailer is properly licensed or general questions you may have regarding licensing requirements and procedures. You may contact the MDA in a variety of ways:

Contact by phone: 1-800-292-3939

Or you can contact the MDA by e-mail. The following links will take you to the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's website where you can confirm a wholesaler's MDA licensure status.

Contact by e-mail: mda-info@michigan.gov

Website: <http://michigan.gov/mdard>

Find a Licensed Michigan Business: [MDA Licensing, Certification and Registration](#)

If you experience any difficulties confirming MDA licensure status or have any questions regarding this requirement, please call the WIC Vendor Relations Unit at 517-335-8937. This line will be answered by a live person from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs

- 1) Can I purchase infant formula from any source?
 - a. No. Infant formula must only be purchased from wholesalers, distributors, and retailers licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture or from infant formula manufacturers registered with the Food and Drug Administration.

- 2) Why must WIC vendors only purchase infant formula from MDA licensed retailers and wholesalers?
 - a. The health of Michigan’s infants that are served by the WIC Program can be directly related to the quality of the infant formula made available. Because proper storage conditions directly affect the quality of infant formula, the Michigan WIC program relies on the expertise of its sister agency, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, to license only those locations that meet specific standards.

- 3) How do I know if my wholesaler has an MDA License?
 - a. You can contact MDA by Phone (1-800-292-3939) or e-mail (mda-info@michigan.gov) to confirm your wholesaler’s licensure Status. Remember that you can purchase formula from any wholesaler or retailer that is licensed with the MDA. If you have any questions about this policy you can call the WIC Program at 517-335-8937 and we will be happy to answer any of your questions.

- 4) Do my inventory and purchase records meet the requirements of the Michigan WIC Program?
 - a. Requirements for inventory and purchase records can be found on page 7 section IV of your WIC Vendor Contract. These requirements will be strictly enforced and inventory records not meeting them will not be accepted. Accordingly, it is strongly suggested that WIC vendors provide their infant formula suppliers with a copy of these requirements. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please call us at 517-335-8937.

- 5) Do I need to keep all of my WIC related inventory and purchase records?
 - a. YES. You are required to maintain at least 3 years of inventory and purchase records for WIC authorized foods including infant formula. Failing to maintain these records could lead to termination and disqualification from the WIC Program, a monetary claim, and possible disqualification from SNAP.

- 6) If I have any questions or doubts about my WIC Vendor Contract, the Sanction Policy, or any other requirements who should I call?
 - a. You can always call your WIC Vendor Analyst directly or call into the Vendor line and ask for your analyst. The phone number to the WIC Vendor Relations Office is 517-335-8937 and will be answered from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday.