

Washington State eWIC Fresh Vegetable and Fruit Mapping Requirements

Requirements for WIC Vendor APL mapping

Washington WIC-eligible foods are listed on the Washington WIC APL (Approved Product List). All fresh vegetables and fruits must be identified by a PLU (Price Look-Up Codes) corresponding by commodity type. Only fresh vegetable and fruit PLUs listed on the APL are eligible for WIC redemption. Frozen vegetables and fruits are identified by their product UPC.

Definitions

- UPC: Universal Product Codes are unique product identification numbers assigned by the manufacturer for tracking trade items.
- PLU: Price Look-Up Codes are standardized four or five digit codes assigned by the International Federation for Produce Standards (IFPS) used to identify produce.
- GTIN: GS1 Global Trade Item Numbers are a global standard for product identification sometimes used for fresh produce.

Background

Mapping refers to matching the WIC Vendor's product identification numbers used in store to those on the WIC State Agency's APL file to identify authorized WIC food items. The [FNS WIC EBT Operating Rules](#) Section 11.3 defines produce mapping requirements.

Washington WIC Produce Mapping

Produce mapping for Washington WIC is the one-to-one (1:1) matching of product identification numbers for fresh vegetables and fruits to Washington WIC-allowed PLUs. WIC Vendors map fresh fruit and vegetable UPCs, PLUs and GTINs to the most similar PLU from the Washington WIC APL.

Selecting Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Product Code

- Product codes must be assigned to a PLU from the Washington WIC Approved Product List (APL). IFPS PLUs from the Washington APL shall be used for purchase approval and reporting.
- Washington WIC vendors must map all fresh produce to a most similar organic or conventional produce PLU from the Washington WIC allowed PLU set on the APL.
- Washington WIC-allowed PLUs exclude codes reserved for retailer-assigned "FOR USE WITH ALL COMMODITIES" and non-Washington WIC approved items. (Produce items like nuts, dried fruit, decorative foods, herbs and spices and garnishes are never WIC approved.)
- Washington APL file includes Organic and Conventional PLU codes.
- Mixed produce items, such as a bag containing both apples and oranges, are identified using PLU 4469.

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Store Responsibility

- Stores map all fresh vegetable and fruits to the most similar PLU found on Washington States APL.
- Stores ensure cashiers and other appropriate store personnel are trained to correctly implement these requirements.
- Stores consult their information technology or cash register system provider/support to prepare the cash register system to comply with the mapping requirements.

Mapping Code Conversion

Product	UPC	Most similar PLU from Washington APL	PLU 4469 For Use with All Commodities
Fresh fruit or vegetable PLU		X	
Organic fresh fruit or vegetable PLU		X Organic	
Fresh fruit or vegetable UPC		X	
Store-assigned PLU FOR USE WITH ALL COMMODITIES		X	
Frozen fruit or vegetable UPC	X		
Mixed Product UPC (examples: apples and oranges, cauliflower and broccoli, mixed greens)			X
Organic Mixed Product UPC (examples: apples and oranges, cauliflower and broccoli, mixed greens)			X Use Organic PLU 94469

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VENDOR ACTION STEPS

1. Plan and build translation with IT/POS team
2. Flag products to map
3. Update database with all produce items and build translation table using WA APL PLU
4. Ensure Excel or translation table working in system (system test file)
5. Maintain system: Make PLU translation part of item set-up

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Washington WIC Nutrition Program doesn't discriminate.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats.

To submit a request, please call 1-800-841-1410 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).

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