

DONATED BABY FOOD, BEVERAGE, AND INFANT FORMULA FOOD DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- ❖ Baby food, beverage, and infant formula cannot be distributed past its "use-by" date.
Do not buy or distribute infant formula or baby food past its "use-by" date.
- ❖ Dating is required for infant formula per FDA, but dates on baby food are not required. When a manufacturer places a date on baby food, it should be used before the "use-by" date. Go to [Food Product Dating](#) for additional information.
- ❖ As with all food products that are received and distributed by members, baby food products should be handled with the same care and consideration as any other product.
- ❖ The broad requirement for members is to appropriately handle and distribute any food product safely and according to local, state, and federal regulations. **The chart on pages 2 and 3 of these guidelines** will assist members on determining which baby food products and packaging can be distributed.
- ❖ As with any food product that is being sorted, the best guidelines for determining if a baby food product can be safely distributed should include:
 - Good knowledge and understanding of food safety
 - Thorough examination for container damage or mislabeling of the product.
 - **Check baby food product "Use-By" dates. Establish guidelines to allow a reasonable amount of time for the product to be distributed by your partner agencies and for the recipient to use the product before the use-by date.**
- ❖ When Sorting:
 - Cellophane outer wrappers do not need to be intact
 - Tops of vacuum sealed glass jars must be un-popped
 - Foil seals on individual containers must be intact & not damaged.
 - If a jar or container falls out of the packaging sleeve, it cannot be distributed without first being placed back into its original packaging sleeve.

PRODUCT PACKAGING DEFINITIONS

Individual Containers:

- Glass Jars, Pouches, Plastic Packages, Cartons/Boxes in
 - Individual Servings
 - 2 packs, 4 packs, or 6 packs

Full Cases:

- Includes value packs (8 or more)
- Partial or full cases and pallets

Baby Food Product Type	Retail Store Donations or Food Drives	Retail Distribution or Reclamation Center Donations	Food Manufacturer Donations
Glass or plastic Jars 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Squeezable food pouches 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Plastic food containers 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Cellophane bags 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Cartons or Boxes 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases

Baby Food Product Type	Retail Store Donations or Food Drives	Retail Distribution or Reclamation Center Donations	Food Manufacturer Donations
Juices/Electrolytes 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Juice Packs 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Infant Formula Concentrate/Ready to Use 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Infant Formula Powder (Plastic/Box Container) 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases
Infant Snacks 	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged Individual containers and full cases can be distributed. Discard damaged individual items	Undamaged full cases can be distributed Discard damaged full cases