

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

The Food Stamp Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 63-102(e)(2)(H)3. and 63-504.723 require that homeless, disabled, or elderly households eligible to participate in the Restaurant Meals (RM) Program be issued a specially marked identification (ID) card containing the persons name, case number, expiration date and signature. At the time the RM regulations were written, there was no other way to identify eligible households except through the provision of a separate ID card which was used in conjunction with the recipient's Golden State Advantage Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

Currently, verification of eligibility to the RM program is electronically accessed through the EBT card that allows access to the database through the point of sale device as specified in 7 CFR 274.12(h)(3)(ii)(B). The EBT system software validates each transaction prior to authorization via the RM "indicator code" which is contained in the database. The development of the EBT RM "indicator code" eliminates the need for the recipient to carry a separate ID card and ensures data security during electronic transmission. Accordingly, the regulations are being amended to repeal the existing provisions and to adopt language that permits verification of eligibility to the RM program through access to the EBT card.

These regulations were considered as Item #1 at the public hearing held on November 14, 2007 in Sacramento, California. No oral or written testimony was received.