

Store Stocking Requirements for SNAP Participation

On May 8, 2026, USDA issued a final rule on stocking requirements for stores that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The rule became effective on July 7 with a requirement that retailers comply with the stocking rules by November 4. Under the final rule, stores that do not comply with the stocking rules will no longer be allowed to participate in the SNAP program. Stores removed from the program for lack of compliance will be required to wait six months before re-applying to the program.

Historical Background

The 2014 Farm Bill directed USDA to mandate stocking requirements for retailers who participate in the SNAP program. The USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) finalized a rule in 2016 to enact the 2014 Farm Bill provisions. However, from 2017-2024 Congress included legislation delaying the stocking requirements from going into effect reflecting compliance concerns from retailers.

In September 2025, USDA Secretary Rollins issued a proposed a new rule on SNAP stocking requirements highlighting that the requirements were an important part of the Trump Administration initiative known as Make America Healthy Again (MAHA). [Announcement Link](#). After a lengthy comment period, Secretary Rollins and HHS Secretary Kennedy announced the final rule on May 8, 2026. [Rollins/Kennedy Announcement Link](#)

Implementation

Convenience stores represent approximately 45% of all retail outlets authorized to accept SNAP benefits. The National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) has called for a delay in final implementation of the rule. CDA has been in closes touch with NACS to support this effort. Despite these appeals for a delay, Congress has so far chosen not to consider any delay and will soon be going out of session until after the compliance deadline. USDA would also have the authority to issue a delay.

Over the past several weeks, USDA/FNS has moved forward with implementation of the rule by providing guidance to retailers. On September 25, USDA issued a memo providing the most recent guidance. The memo includes a chart with sample pathways for retailers on how to comply with the new [requirements](#).

Without any last-minute delay by USDA, action by Congress, or a lawsuit in federal court requesting a delay, convenience stores will be required to comply with the USDA SNAP Stocking Rules by November 4.