

# About Grains Ounce Equivalents

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CDT

As of **October 1, 2021**, all food program participants must use grain ounce equivalents when serving Bread/Alt and Infant Cereal food items. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) defines an ounce equivalent as "...the amount of food product that is considered equal to one ounce from the grain or protein food groups."

Grain ounce equivalents aims to account for the different levels of water content in different grains, as higher water content leads to less grain content in the food item. For example, cooked pasta and rice has higher water content than crackers or bread. This policy also brings CACFP in-line with other federal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, USDA MyPlate Food Guidance, US Dietary Guidelines, and the NAM report.

We have implemented extensive changes to KidKare Food Program to accommodate this policy change and ensure that you and your sites are in-line with this new reporting requirement.

If you work with a food program sponsor, your sponsor will enable this functionality for you. If you are independent, you can enable ounce equivalents once you are ready to implement them. Once you enable ounce equivalents, several changes take place. These changes are summarized below.

## Food List (Independent Centers)

All Bread/Alt and Infant Cereal foods require an ounce equivalents calculation be saved to the food list. This ensures that KidKare calculates quantities for these items correctly and accurately. A calculation consists of the following:

- Exhibit A Grains Group Designation
- Serving Size
- Serving Weight

This information provides the figures to plug into the formula used by the USDA to calculate the ounce equivalents for one serving of the item you have added. This calculator replaces the Food Quantity Group settings that were previously present for Bread/Alt and Infant Cereal food items.

Foods > Edit Food

Display

Category: \* Noodles/Pasta

Name: \* Spaghetti

Spanish Name:

Food Type: \* Bread/Alt

Nutritional Information

Vitamin A III No

High Fat III No

Vitamin C III No

High Salt III No

Whole Grain-Rich III No

Iron III No

Food Quantity Group

Grains Group \* Group H

Serving Size \* 1 Cups (c)

Serving Weight \* 56 grams (g) 1 Serving = 2.00 oz eq

Additional Information

Approvals

Breakfast Yes III

Snack Yes III

Lunch/Dinner Yes III

Non-Infant: \* Allow

Infant 6-11: \* Allow

Infant 0-5: \* Disallow

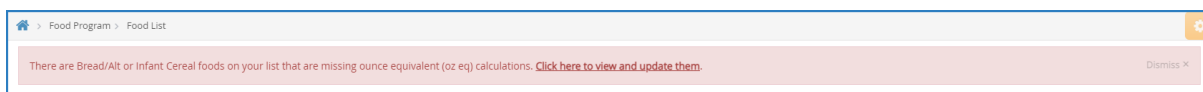
Effective Dates


End:

## Missing Calculation Indicators & New Claim Errors

To help you update your food list, we have added several indicators to the food list itself to show that there are Bread/Alts and Infant Cereals that still need ounce equivalent calculations to be applied.

- A red banner displays on the Food List page to warn you of missing calculations. You can click this banner to filter to only those items that are missing a calculation.



- A  displays in the table for Bread/Alt and Infant Cereal items that are missing an ounce equivalents calculation.

The screenshot shows the 'Food List' table with the following columns: Name, Category, Food Type, Non Infant, Infant 0-5, Infant 6-11, and End. The table contains one entry: 'Infant Cereal No Oz Eq' with Category 'Cold Cereal' and Food Type 'Infant Cereal'. A red calculator icon is visible in the 'Infant 0-5' column for this entry. The table is filtered to show 1 of 1 entries.

- A message displays in the Record Menu window and on the Daily Menu page when you or a center adds a Bread/Alt or Infant Cereal that is missing an ounce equivalents calculation to a menu.

Infant Cereal	Infant Cereal No Oz Eq	+
Meat/Alternate		+
Vegetables		+
Fruit		+

Meal Pattern Requirements
Record Leftover Quantities

This Infant Cereal does not have an ounce equivalent calculation saved.

We have also added two new errors to the Office Error Report: Error 107 and Error 108. These errors are warnings only and will not otherwise affect claims processing. Instead, these are meant to help you locate items being claimed that still need ounce equivalents information on your food list.

## Overrides

To account for weight differences between brands, a new calculator option will display on the Daily Menu page. This allows your staff to input nutrition label information specific to the bread/grain they are serving on any particular day. You cannot access this calculator if your food program sponsor/center administrator (for independent centers) has locked the item to the food list calculation.

## Quantities

Once ounce equivalents are enabled, all quantities referenced for Bread/Alt items will use the new ounce equivalents serving requirements provided by the USDA. Quantities reference the ounce equivalents for one serving of a Bread/Alt as saved to your food list.

For example, suppose there is a Bread on the food list with the following serving information: 1 slice = 28g = 1 oz eq.

1. You serve this bread for **Lunch**.
2. You estimate attendance for this meal to be **five (5) 3-5 year old participants**.
3. **Per the USDA**, the minimum serving size for a slice of bread for this age group is **0.5 oz eq**.
4. The estimated quantity required for this bread will show as: **2.5 slices - 2.5 oz eq**.

Lunch
Meal Time: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Menus
Create Menu

		Estimated Quantity Required	Actual Quantity Served
Meat/Alternate	BBQ Chicken (220)	7.5 ounces (oz)	+
Bread/Alternate	Bread (011)	2.5 slices - 2.5 oz eq	+
	<div> is this whole grain rich? </div>		
	<div> Calculator Oz Eq for 1 serving </div>		
Vegetables	Asparagus (150)	1.25 cups (c)	+
Fruit/Vegetable	Apples (001)	1.25 cups (c)	+
Milk	Fluid Milk (7)	3.75 cups (c)	+

Meal Pattern Requirements
Record Leftover Quantities

Delete
Save

Attendance Summary

Age	Estimated	Actual
1 yr	0	0
2 yr	0	0
3-5 yr	5	0
6-12 yr	0	0
13-18 yr	0	0
Adult	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

Menu Notes

Even though the common unit displays, all claims processing and Menu Production Record information will reference the ounce equivalents value. The common unit is there to help your staff determine how much of an item to serve.

**Notes:** If you must record actual quantities, your food program sponsor may opt to require you to enter quantities in ounce equivalents only. If this is the case, you can view and record quantities in ounce equivalents only. Independent center users with the **Director** or **Administrator** role can set **Do you want to use the food list calculation to record actual quantities for Bread/Alt & Infant Cereal foods?** to **No** to require staff to enter all Bread/Alt quantities in ounce equivalents only.

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