

USDA Proposal Would Require Meals Served at School to Meet More Stringent Nutrition Quality Standards

February 2, 2011

Last month, the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") issued a [proposed rule](#) that would revise the meal patterns and nutrition requirements for the National School Lunch Program ("NSLP") and the School Breakfast Program ("SBP"). The proposed rule, which is intended to improve the dietary habits of school children, would align the NSLP and SBP with the 2005 "Dietary Guidelines for Americans," as required by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act ("NSLA").

The proposed rule represents a substantial shift in the nutritional composition and quantity of a number of food items that make up current school breakfast and lunch meals and is likely to have far-reaching implications for companies that make or market food products for use in school breakfast or lunch programs. Affected companies are advised to evaluate the legal and business implications of the USDA proposal now, and bring issues and concerns to the attention of the appropriate policymakers, including by submitting written comments to USDA on or before the April 13, 2011 deadline.

See the Kelley Drye client advisory for [more information](#), and please contact us if you have questions concerning the USDA proposal or other matters.