



To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors  
From: Brigitte Hires, Director Office of Nutrition  
Date: May 7, 2024  
Re: Criteria for Determining Sites with Operational Problems

### **Introduction**

On September 19, 2022, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the [Final Rule: Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP](#). The rule amended Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) regulations to strengthen Program integrity by clarifying, simplifying, and streamlining Program administration to facilitate compliance with Program requirements. The SFSP Streamlining Final rule revised [7 CFR 225.15\(d\)\(2\)](#) to require a site visit in the first two weeks of operation for new sites, sites with operational problems in the prior year, and any site where the state agency determines a visit is needed. For sites that operate for a week or less, the site visit must be conducted during the period of operation, as proposed.


The SFSP Streamlining Final rule also added to [7 CFR 225.7](#) a new [paragraph](#) that requires each state agency to establish criteria for what constitutes operational problems to help sponsors determine which of their returning sites are required to receive a site visit.

### **Policy**

The Office of Nutrition will use the following criteria to define operational problems:

- Failure to maintain adequate site records.
- Failure to adjust meal orders to conform to changes in site attendance.
- Serving more than one meal to a child at one time.
- Children eating complete meals off-site in a congregate setting.
- Claiming meals that were not served to eligible children.
- Serving meals that do not include all required meal components and/or correct quantities.
- Failure to report health and safety issues.
- Noncompliance with civil rights laws and regulations.
- Meal count consolidation errors.
- Failure to meet training requirements.

Sponsors must conduct a full review of food service operations at each site at least once during the first four weeks of Program operations, and thereafter must maintain a reasonable level of site monitoring. Sponsors may conduct this full review of food service operations at the same time they are conducting a site visit if the review happens within the first two weeks of operations.



Please contact your assigned Education Program Specialist or the Office of Nutrition at (614) 466-2945 with any questions.

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