

Policy Clarification - Food Stamps
PFS12001575

(Revised 1/27/05)
(Revised 2/7/05)

Submitted: 11/04

Agency: CAO

Citations:

Subject: Length of Certification Period

During a recent DCA SAR review, we received errors regarding the length of the foodstamp certification period. In cases where expedited food stamps are issued for the first or the first two months of application, CIS begins the food stamp certification period with the date the on-going benefits are issued and normally continues through 12 months. The DC errors we received state that the certification period cannot exceed 12 months including the expedited NCE. In the SAR Questions and Answers dated 05/29/03, the response to question #22 states "A food stamp NCE period followed by an immediate opening of on-going food stamps will not result in the NCE period being counted toward the SAR period." Is this still correct?

When expedited benefits are issued, DCA found that the initial application form was used to cover both the expedited period and the ongoing period which could be 13 or 14 months. Must workers routinely shorten the certification period to 10 or 11 months in order to insure that there is an application form on file every 12 months?

If workers need to shorten certification periods on cases that received expedited allotments, how would this be accomplished? How would the SAR period be affected?

FSH 575.1 and 575.2 7cfr 271.10(f) and 273.14

Response By: L Schmidt

12/08/04

Yes, certification periods must be adjusted so that benefits are not issued without a recertification every 12 months. The IMCW will instruct clerical staff to correct the certification **and SAR** due date. The automated notice must be suppressed and a manual notice issued. The SAR period, which begins with the first month of benefits (including expedited benefits), must **also** be adjusted. ~~at recertification.~~