In response to suggestions, the "one-time exception provision" contained in the 60/90-day guidance, is being revised. This provision allows the State Agency (SA), or the Regional Office when applicable, the discretion to grant approval for one valid monthly claim submitted after the 60-day deadline when the lateness is due to reasons within the control of the School Food Authority (SFA) or sponsor. The concern expressed is that such an exception may be granted only once to an SFA or sponsor during the lifetime of its administration. This requires the SA to maintain records going back to the inception of the policy.

Consequently, we are revising the policy to permit a one-time exception to be granted whenever an SFA or sponsor has not been granted an exception during the previous 36-month period. This revision will be implemented beginning with October 1992 (Fiscal Year 1993) claims. This revision will in no way affect any other provisions in the 60/90-day guidance.

This will mean that all one-time exceptions granted prior to Fiscal Year 1990 need not be considered when applying this provision. For example, if an SFA submits a late December 1992 claim, a one-time exception may be granted, provided that the SFA had not received one during the period December 1989 to November 1992.

Considering the fact that there are SFAs and sponsors who administer multiple programs, and given that different SA staff may be administering the National School Lunch, Child and Adult Care, and Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP), the policy permits an SA to track each of the three programs separately. Therefore, a one-time exception granted to a Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsor does not eliminate the sponsor from consideration for a one-time exception for a SFSP claim.
If there are any questions, please contact our office.

ANN C. HECTOR
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs