

STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

DCF

Department for Children and Families

BULLETIN NO.: 10-22E

FROM: Pam Dalley, Interim Deputy Commissioner
Economic Services Division

DATE: September 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Amendment to Food Stamp (3SquaresVT) Rules
to Comply with Federal Law and Regulations

CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE 9/17/2010

INSTRUCTIONS

- Maintain Manual - See instructions below.**
- Proposed Regulation - Retain bulletin and attachments until you receive Manual Maintenance Bulletin: _____**
- Information or Instructions - Retain until _____**

MANUAL REFERENCE(S):

273.9d 6 vi

This rule amends Food Stamp (3SquaresVT) rule number 273.9d 6 vi by changing the procedural reference in the "Vermont Note" to bring the rule into compliance with federal regulations requiring states to implement all changes to standard utility allowances as directed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). FNS notified the department on September 7, 2010 that the rule-making requirement specified in the "Vermont Note" does not comply with Federal regulations governing the state's plan of operations for the program and consequently prevents the timely application of federally-mandated updates to standard utility allowances.

Manual Maintenance

3SquaresVT Rules

Remove

Insert

273.9d 6 vi (98-4)

273.9d 6 vi (10-22)

10/1/2010

Bulletin No. 10-22

273.9d 6 vi

273.9 Income and Deductions

d. Income Deductions

6. Standard Utility Allowance (Continued)

- vi. The State agency shall review and adjust the standard utility allowance(s) annually to reflect changes in the cost of utilities. The State agency may use data gathered through quality control sampling, surveys of utility company rates, or other methods for updating the standard utility allowance(s). The State agency may vary the size of the standard utility allowance to reflect differences such as seasonal cost changes or cost variations between geographical areas.

Vermont Note: The annual update to standard utility allowances will coincide with the update and issuance of other federally-mandated standards. Updated annual standards will be implemented on October 1 and will be published in procedures.

- vii. If the household shares utility expenses with, and lives with, another individual not participating in the Food Stamp Program, another household participating in the Food Stamp Program, or both, the allowance shall be prorated among the household and the other individual, household, or both.

Vermont Note: The proration of the standard allowance for shared households will be equal for each of the sharing households. For example, if two households live together and share utility expenses, each would be entitled to one-half of the appropriate standard allowance.