All other detached coupons may be accepted only if accompanied by the coupon book which bears the same serial number as the detached coupons. It is the right of the household or the authorized representative to detach the coupons from the book.

(b) Meals-on-wheels. Eligible household members 60 years of age or over or members who are housebound, physically handicapped, or otherwise disabled to the extent that they are unable to adequately prepare all their meals, and their spouses, may use coupons to purchase meals prepared for and delivered to them by a nonprofit meal delivery service authorized by FNS.

(c) Prior payment prohibition. Coupons shall not be used to pay for any eligible food purchased prior to the time at which the coupons are presented to authorized retail food stores or meal services. Neither shall coupons be used to pay for any eligible food in advance of the receipt of food, except when prior payment is for food purchased from a nonprofit cooperative food purchasing venture.

(d) Cash change. When change in an amount less than $1 is required in a coupon transaction, the household shall receive the change in cash not to exceed 99 cents. However, in the case of homeless food stamp households, neither cash change nor credit slips shall be returned for coupons used for the purchase of prepared meals from authorized homes. That is to say, the change may not exceed 99 cents. However, in the case of homeless food stamp households, neither cash change nor credit slips shall be returned for coupons used for the purchase of prepared meals from authorized homes.

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

§ 274.11

(a) Availability of records. The State agency shall maintain issuance, inventory, reconciliation, and other accountability records for a period of three years as specified in §272.1(f) of
§ 274.12 Electronic Benefit Transfer issuance system approval standards.

(a) General. This section establishes rules for the approval, implementation and operation of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) systems for the Food Stamp Program as an alternative to issuing food stamp coupons. By October 1, 2002, State agencies must have EBT systems implemented statewide, unless the Secretary provides a waiver for a State agency that faces unusual barriers to implementing an EBT system. In general, these rules apply to both on-line and off-line EBT systems, unless stated otherwise herein, or unless FNS determines otherwise for off-line systems during the system planning and development process.

(b) Program administration. (1) The State food stamp agency shall submit Planning and Implementation Advanced Planning Documents (APDs) for FNS approval in accordance with the requirements of §277.18 of this chapter and this section for development and implementation of initial and subsequent EBT systems. The State agency shall implement EBT systems in a pilot area prior to expansion Statewide or to other project areas. The areas of pilot operation and full-scale operation shall be identified in the Planning APD when submitted to FNS for approval.

(2) The State agency shall be responsible for the coordination and management of the EBT system. The Secretary may suspend or terminate some or all EBT system funding or withdraw approval of the EBT system from the State agency upon a finding that the State agency or its contracted representative has failed to comply with the requirements of this section and/or §277.18 of this chapter.

(3) All EBT systems within a State must follow a singular EBT APD and system architecture submitted by the State agency. Multiple EBT designs will be acceptable only if such designs can be fully justified by the State agency; the system differences are transparent to participating households that move within the State; operating costs are the same or lower; and the ability of the different systems to readily communicate (transaction interchange) with one another.

[54 FR 7004, Feb. 15, 1989, as amended at 60 FR 20183, Apr. 25, 1995]