

Eliminate System Certification Mode

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Overview:

This “mode” may not be familiar to the retailers but developers have been required to include a mode, similar to Training Mode, to allow for In-Store certifications without using “live” WIC EBT cards. However, the “cert mode” has not been utilized for various reasons. A decision has been made by the Smart WIC Authorities and the USDA FNS (Food Nutrition Services) to discontinue the cert mode requirement and remove it from the developers’ specifications and the certification documents.

Notes:

1. Discussed that the purpose of the system certification mode was to allow stores to use a training card to create a transaction that would be reported in a claim file and be processed without resulting in a payment being made to the store.
2. Discussed that a limitation of the system certification mode was that stores were unable to have individual lanes set up in certification mode. All lanes in a store have to be in the same mode.
3. Discussed that USDA will allow us to bypass certification mode testing for future certifications.

Summary:

1. The Authorities, stores and/or developers had no objections to eliminating the certification mode.
2. Texas will draft language to include in the updated developer system specifications eliminating the certification mode requirement in future versions.