



Task Title: Understanding PLU Codes

OALCF Cover Sheet – Learner Copy

Learner Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Completed: _____

Successful Completion: Yes No

Goal Path: Employment Apprenticeship

Secondary School Post Secondary Independence

Task Description:

The learner will read a short text to understand PLU codes used in grocery stores and answer questions related to the text. They will also calculate total prices for various PLU codes based on a customer enquiry.

Main Competency/Task Group/Level Indicator:

- Find and Use Information/Read Continuous Text/A1.2
- Understand and Use Numbers/Manage Money/C1.2

Materials Required:

- Pen/pencil and paper and/or digital device
- Calculator or digital device with calculator function (optional)

Task Title: UnderstandingPLUCodes_E_A1.2_C1.2_

Learner Information

Price Look Up (PLU) are the stickers used on fruits and vegetables. Cashiers are expected to be familiar with the Price Look Up (PLU) codes used in grocery stores. These codes let cashiers identify and price produce items without needing individual price tags.

Scan the **PLU Coding System** information.

PLU Coding System

- The International Federation of Produce Standards (IFPS) administers the PLU code system.
- PLU codes are universal, so the same code is used for the same item in all countries.

PLU coding system is voluntary and not mandated by any governing body; however, most grocery stores in Ontario will use PLU codes for produce items.

Price Look-Up (PLU) codes are used in grocery stores to identify fresh produce items at checkout. These codes are typically **4 or 5 digits** long and help cashiers enter the correct price for items sold by weight or unit.

- A **4-digit PLU code** (e.g., **4011**) means the produce was **grown conventionally** (using fertilizers or pesticides).
- A **5-digit PLU code beginning with 9** (e.g., **94011**) means the produce is **organic**.
- A **5-digit PLU code beginning with 8** (e.g., **84011**) was originally used to label **genetically modified (GMO) produce**, but it is no longer an official standard.
- PLU codes are **internationally recognized** and used in Canada, the U.S., and other countries.

Any information related to organic status of a fruit or vegetable included on a PLU for use in Canada, must satisfy [Canadian requirements for organic produce](#) marketed in Canada, as well as applicable provincial requirements.

There is no Canadian regulatory requirement to put country of origin information on a PLU label used on bulk unpackaged fresh fruits and vegetable products.

Work Sheet

Task 1: Who is responsible for administering the PLU code system?

Answer:

Task 2: Circle or highlight the code for an organic banana. Type your response if completing this task digitally.

- a) 4011
 - b) 94011
 - c) 84011
 - d) 5011
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Task 3: A grocery store label on a bag of apples shows the PLU code 4173. How were these apples grown?

Answer:

Task 4: Why does a grocery store use a 5-digit PLU code starting with a 9?

Answer:

Task 5: Which PLU code is no longer an official standard?

Answer:

Task 6: If information related to organic status is used on produce what must be satisfied?

Answer

Task 7: A customer brings the following items to the checkout to find out the cost based on the weight.

Item	PLU Code	Price per Pound	Weight
Bananas (Regular)	4011	\$0.79	2.5 lbs
Bananas (Organic)	94011	\$1.29	3 lbs
Apples (Regular)	4173	\$1.99	4 lbs
Apples (Organic)	94173	\$2.49	2 lbs

a) Calculate the cost for regular bananas.

Answer:

b) What is the total cost for all the apples?

Answer:

c) What is the price difference between the organic and regular apples per pound?

Answer:

d) Calculate the total cost of all items.

Answer:
