

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 05, 2024

Report Number: AS2024-0007

Report Name: New Allergen Labeling Requirement for Australia and New Zealand

Country: Australia

Post: Canberra

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) have updated the laws on allergen labeling for foods sold throughout Australia and New Zealand. The new allergen labeling laws are called PEAL – Plain English Allergen Labelling.

Overview

[Food Standards Australia New Zealand](#) (FSANZ) implemented a new regulation, Plain English Allergen Labeling (PEAL), which came into effect on February 25, 2024.

PEAL now requires allergen information to be declared in a specific format and location on food labels and using simple, plain English terms in bold font. This new regulation applies to both Australia and New Zealand.

The changes aim to help consumers identify allergen information on food labels quicker and easier than before.

According to FSANZ, food that was packaged and labeled before February 25, 2024, that complied with the previous allergen declaration requirements can be sold until February 25, 2026.

What has changed?

The Food Standards Code now requires food and ingredients to be declared using specific required names. The change also means individual tree nuts, mollusks and cereals must all be declared separately.

The following food and ingredients must now be declared on the food label:

- almond
- barley*
- Brazil nut
- cashew
- crustacean
- egg
- fish
- hazelnut
- lupin
- macadamia
- milk
- mollusk
- oats*
- peanut
- pecan
- pine nut
- pistachio
- rye*
- sesame
- soy, soya, soybean

- sulphites**
- walnut
- wheat

* Barley, oats, and rye must be declared if they contain gluten.

** Sulphites must be declared when added in amounts equal to or more than 10 milligrams per kilogram of food.

Declarations

Declarations must be made in the statement of ingredients:

- using **bold** font and a font size no smaller than that used for other listed ingredients (maltodextrin (**wheat**), **milk** powder), and
- a separate allergen summary statement in **bold font** beginning with the word 'contains' (e.g. **CONTAINS WHEAT, MILK**) located in the same field of view and directly next to the statement of ingredients (can be above, below or to the side of the ingredients list).
- If a 'May Contain' statement is required, this must appear on a separate line.

The summary needs to be distinctly separated from the ingredients list.

Example: Vegemite

Ingredients: Yeast Extract (**Barley, Wheat**), Salt, Mineral Salt (508), Malt Extract (**Barley**), Color (150c), Flavors, Niacin, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Folate.

CONTAINS: GLUTEN, WHEAT.

Foods not required to display a statement of ingredients must still provide declarations elsewhere on the label (such as in a summary statement) using the required names.

For more information visit [Food Standards Australia New Zealand](#), [Food Standards Code 1.2.3](#) and [Schedule 9](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.