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Australia

FAIRS Subject Report

New Regulations for Applying to Amend the Food Standards Code

2007

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Report Highlights:

Major amendments to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 will come into effect on October 1, 2007 which will expedite the process for applications to amend the Food Standards Code.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

Major amendments to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 were passed by the Parliament on June 20, 2007.

The purpose of the amendments was to expedite the development of food regulatory measures by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and improve the framework within which FSANZ operates and food standards are made. The amendments come into effect on October 1, 2007.

A key amendment relates to applications, whereby all applications will be required to include certain minimum information as detailed in the FSANZ Act and in the [Assessment Handbook](#). FSANZ will be able to reject an application if it does not meet the information requirements set out in the Guidelines.

An application to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) will have to:

- be in writing; and
- be in the form specified in the Assessment Handbook; and
- include all of the information and other details as indicated in the Assessment Handbook; and
- identify the assessment procedure that, in the applicant's view, applies to the consideration of the application.

All applications will be subject to an 'Administrative Assessment' on receipt by FSANZ. The main purpose of the Administrative Assessment is to determine whether the application meets the application requirements and the Procedure by which it should be assessed.

Applications will then be assessed under one of three Procedures:

- Minor - 3 months to notification to the Ministerial Council
- General - 9 months to notification to the Ministerial Council
- Major - 12 months to notification to the Ministerial Council

The Ministerial Council has no time requirements for its decision on a FSANZ recommendation and may direct that FSANZ review a particular recommendation only once.

Source: Food Standards Australia New Zealand; Food & Beverage Importers Association

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AS7021	Additional Comment Sought on Proposed Nutrition & Health Claims Standard	04/11/2007

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