

HOW THE FOOD STANDARDS OPERATE

Key laws governing the food industry include the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code), the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*, and the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Regulations 1994*.

Non-compliance with the Code can have serious consequences and lead to fines of up to \$275,000, product recalls, import and export restrictions, and potential injury claims from consumers.

This factsheet explores the critical aspects of these regulations for food business operators.

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THE FOOD STANDARDS CODE



The *Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) governs:

- food and allergen labelling requirements;
- vitamin and mineral content;
- food safety programs and practices; and
- meat, dairy, egg and seed sprout production and processing standards.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is the regulatory body responsible for developing food standards.

ALLERGEN LABELLING



Food products must include a separate 'allergen statement' if allergens are present that is separate from the ingredient list. This statement must begin with the word 'contains', followed by the present allergens. It should be:

- in bold font;
- the same or larger text size;
- distinct from other text;
- in plain language; and
- consistent with other allergen statements.

FOOD PACKAGING AND LABELLING



Ensure your products have accurate and clear packaging and labelling, and include the following requirements:

- food name and description;
- lot number identification;
- supplier's name and Australian address;
- ingredient list;
- date mark;
- nutrition information panel;
- country of origin;
- storage conditions;
- directions for use;
- characterising ingredients and components; and
- warning and advisory statements.

FOOD ADVERTISING AND HEALTH CLAIMS



Avoid making misleading or deceptive statements when advertising your products.

- **Health Claims:** Ensure you can substantiate health claims you make about your products.
- **Therapeutic Claims:** Do not make claims about preventing, curing, or alleviating diseases or conditions.
- **Evidence and Registration:** You may be required to provide evidence of the health benefits before you can advertise this feature of the food product. Different claims have different registration processes with FSANZ.