
Public Consultation- Food Regulation Policy Guideline

Overview

Introduction

In **August 2019** <<https://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/forum-communique-2019-August>> the **Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (Forum)** <<https://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/Forum>> agreed to a program of activities under Priority two of the food regulation system to contribute towards reducing chronic disease related to obesity. One of these activities was to develop a *Policy Guideline on food labelling to support consumers to make informed healthy choices* (Policy Guideline).

The Policy Guideline will provide strategic guidance to **Food Standards Australia New Zealand** <<https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/>> (FSANZ) about the Forum's expectations about food labelling in relation to supporting consumers to make healthy choices. The Policy Guideline will support current and future food labelling topics to be considered through a whole-of-diet approach that uses the Dietary Guidelines as a principle focus and helps ensure that any emphasis on food labels about a particular nutrient or food is justified by the recommendations in the **Australian** <<https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/>> and **New Zealand Dietary Guidelines** <<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/eating-and-activity-guidelines/current-food-and-nutrition-guidelines>> .

Policy guidelines aim to improve outcomes for all by making clear and unambiguous the policy principles that apply to jurisdictions and bodies making food regulations. The creation of a policy guideline does not trigger regulatory action by FSANZ or changes to current food labelling. However, when FSANZ is developing or reviewing food regulatory measures, a written policy guideline is one of a number of matters to which it must have regard (as outlined in the **FSANZ Act 1991** <<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A04193>>).

Why we are consulting

Australia and New Zealand share a joint system for food labelling which is overseen by the Forum. The Forum is responsible for developing food regulation policy in the form of policy guidelines and to ensure stakeholder views are considered on proposed policies.

In **August 2019** <<https://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/forum-communicate-2019-August>> the Forum referred two pieces of work to FSANZ: **labelling of sugars on packaged foods and drinks**

<<https://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/sugar-labelling>> , and **energy labelling on alcoholic beverages**

<<https://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/activities-energy-labelling>> . In both of these pieces of work it was noted that current food labelling requirements were limiting consumers' opportunity to make informed choices in support of the Dietary Guidelines.

A written policy guideline is one of a number of matters to which FSANZ must have regard developing or reviewing food regulatory measures. This Policy Guideline will give strategic guidance and outline the Forum's expectations to FSANZ when it is considering the sugars labelling and energy labelling pieces of work and other future labelling related issues.

Policy Guideline

Food labelling information should provide consumers the opportunity to identify foods that contribute to healthy dietary patterns, as recommended in the Dietary Guidelines. The Policy Guideline aims to support this objective.

The draft Policy Guideline is at the bottom of this page under the 'Related Documents' heading.

The Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC)

<<https://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/FRSC>> has drafted the Policy Guideline on behalf of the Forum. FRSC is seeking stakeholder views on the proposed Policy Guideline.

Preview consultation

You can download a preview of this consultation under the 'Related documents' link at the bottom of this page.

Responding to the consultation

Responses to the consultation questions are to be submitted through this online consultation platform. It is not necessary to complete the survey in one sitting. You can save your answers and come back later.

Introductory text

You may answer as many consultation questions as you like. It is not necessary to respond to all of the questions.

About you

1 What is your name?

Name

2 What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

3 What sector do you represent?

Drop down list about which sector the respondent represents (Required)

Please select only one item

- General public Public health Food industry Consumer organisation
 Other (please specify) Prefer not to say

If 'other' sector selected, please specify in the text box

4 What is your organisation?

Organisation

Please select all that apply

- Not applicable- Responding as an individual

5 Which country are you responding from?

Drop down list about which country the respondent is based (Required)

Please select only one item

- Australia New Zealand Trans-Tasman organisation Other
 Prefer not to say

If you selected 'other' please specify country

6 An opportunity to submit any other information about your organisation you would like to provide.

An opportunity to provide any other information about your organisation.

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

If you would like to upload a file about your organisation or an executive summary, please do so here. Please do not submit a document with answers to the consultation questions, provide your answers to the consultation questions on the online platform.

Upload file here.

Overall comments on the Policy Guideline

An opportunity to provide overarching comments on the Policy Guideline.

7 What are your overall comments on the Policy Guideline?

Impact of the Policy Guideline

An opportunity to provide feedback about how this Policy Guideline would impact you/your organisation.

8 How would this Policy Guideline impact you/your organisation?

Provide information about how this Policy Guideline would impact you/your organisation

Potential unintended consequences

An opportunity to provide feedback about potential unintended consequences of the Policy Guideline.

9 Are there any potential unintended consequences associated with this Policy Guideline?

Provide feedback on any potential unintended consequences associated with this Policy Guideline

Specific feedback on the Policy Guideline

10 What are your comments on the 'Aim'?

Provide feedback on the 'Aim' in the Policy Guideline

11 What are your comments on the 'Policy Principles'?

Provide feedback on the 'Policy Principles' in the Policy Guideline

12 What are your comments on the 'Scope'?

Provide feedback on the 'Scope' in the Policy Guideline

13 What are your comments on the 'Definitions'?

Provide feedback on the 'Definitions' in the Policy Guideline

14 What are your comments on the 'Context'?

Provide feedback on the 'Context' in the Policy Guideline

15 What are your comments on the 'Reviews and Updates'?

Provide feedback on the 'Reviews and Updates' section in the Policy Guideline

Feedback on structure and format

An opportunity to provide feedback on the structure and format of the Policy Guideline.

16 What are your comments on the overall structure and format of the Policy Guideline?

Provide feedback on the overall structure and format of the Policy Guideline

Other general comments

An opportunity to provide general comments on the Policy Guideline

17 Do you have any other general comments on the Policy Guideline?

Provide general comments on the Policy Guideline