

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 7186
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
AUSTRALIA

16 December 2014

Call for submissions – Proposal 1035 Gluten Claims about Foods containing Alcohol

I am writing on behalf of Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) in response to the call for submissions – Proposal 1035 Gluten Claims about Foods containing Alcohol

Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) is the peak industry body representing the interests of Australia's winemaking sector. With members representing around 90% of the value Australian wine production drawn from large, medium and small businesses WFA speaks on behalf of the whole industry. WFA is recognised by the Australian government in legislation as a representative body for the interests of Australia's winemaking community. WFA plays an active partnership role with the government in international and technical negotiations concerning the interests of the wine sector.

Standard 1.2.7 – Nutrition, Health and Related claims, which regulates nutrition content and health claims will become mandatory in January 2016. Under this Standard, nutrition content claims about gluten content in relation to food containing more than 1.15% alcohol by volume will be prohibited. This proposal will amend Standard 1.2.7 so that nutrition content claims about gluten content in relation to food containing more than 1.15% alcohol by volume continue to be permitted in Standard 1.2.7.

There have been reports of some wines containing traces of gluten arising from the use of flour based glues in oak barrels. Increasingly, and in particular on international markets, customers are seeking gluten declarations on documentation and in some cases on labels.

This proposal will enable Australia's winemakers to satisfy customer requirements and give certainty to consumers who are seeking a gluten free option. WFA believes that this is a sensible proposal to reduce potential cost to producers and help satisfy consumers and we would support this amendment.

I am happy to provide further information in support of this submission if required. Please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED] to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

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Tony Battaglione
General Manager
Strategy & International Affairs