

Development of joint Australia New Zealand Food Standards

As part of the process of the Review of the
Food Standards Code

Variation to Standard A1(19) – Folate/NTD Health Claims

Full Assessment Report

Proposal 222

July 2000

The Authority should receive written submissions
no later than **Friday 14th September 2000**

Submissions should be sent to:

The -Project Manager - Proposal P222
Australia New Zealand Food Authority
at one of the following addresses:

PO Box 7186
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610
Australia

or

PO Box 10559
The Terrace
Wellington 6036
New Zealand

Submissions will be placed on the Authority's public register (unless a claim of commercial confidentiality is made and accepted by the Authority) and will therefore be open to public scrutiny.

1.1 Background

The overall timeframe for the folate health claims pilot was from November 1998 - February 2001. The period in which the majority of education activities were undertaken and the pilot monitored however, was the first 6 months of the pilot, from November 1998 - May 1999.

Initially, it was anticipated that the evaluation of the pilot would be completed by mid-1999, with P153 completed by the end of 1999. In late 1999, ANZFSO agreed to extend the pilot until February 2001 because ANZFA was unable to meet this timeline. At that stage, it was anticipated that the evaluation of the folate pilot would be completed by early 2000 and a decision made by Ministers on P153 by the end of 2000.

As a result of a number of factors including delays in finalising the evaluations of the pilot, and the complexity of the issue, it is now expected that the timeframe for completion of the pilot and the progression of P153, will be extended by a further 12 months.

1.2 Discussion

The revised sunset date of 13 February 2001 was set on the assumption that the decision on P153 would occur before then. If not adjusted pilot participants would be forced to again revise labels and marketing arrangements in February 2001 and, if the folate pilot were to be re-authorised by an ANZFSO decision on P153 in 2001, yet another set of changes would be needed.

1.3 Conclusion

In order for :

- the use of the folate health claim to proceed;
- to ensure disruption to products on the marketplace does not occur; and
- to progress Proposal P153 – Health Claims;.

the sunset date for the folate health claims pilot of 13 February 2001 should be extended by one year to 13 February 2002.

As this proposal raises issues of minor significance and complexity only, and that to omit to invite public submissions in relation to the proposal will not adversely affect the interests of any person or body, it is proposed, pursuant to section 36, to invite public consultation on a full assessment of this proposal.

DRAFT VARIATION TO THE FOOD STANDARDS CODE

To commence on gazettal:

Standard A1 is varied by omitting immediately after the Table to subclause (19)(e) –

Editorial Notes:

- (1) Subclauses (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) implement a pilot trial of a management system for health claims. The outcomes of the pilot will be used to assist in the evaluation of a proposal to allow wider use of health claims in food labels and advertisements. The subclauses cease to have effect on 13 February 2001.
- (2) Due to anticipated delays in the publication of amendments into the Food Standards Code, the approved foods/products listed in Column 1 to subclause (e) are also listed in a Register which is held at and by the Australia New Zealand Food Authority. The Register contains the most up to date list of approved foods/products.
- (3) Clause (13) of Standard A1 should be read in conjunction with Standard A9 – Vitamins and Minerals.

Substituting –

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