



FOOD STANDARDS
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Office of the Managing Director

The Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Kerley

REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S QUARANTINE FUNCTION – RESPONSE TO DIAGEO'S COMMENT ON THE LABELLING OF DUTY FREE SPIRITS

Thank you for your letter dated 18 June 2002 but received on 18 August, inviting Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to respond to Diageo's comment on the labelling of duty free spirits and its interaction with the then ANZFA on the matter.

Diageo's comment refers to an application made to ANZFA (FSANZ's predecessor), seeking an exemption from all labelling requirements under the *Food Standards Code*, for spirits and liqueurs sold in duty free stores in Australia and New Zealand. This application (A418) was considered by ANZFA, and its Final Assessment recommended that the application be rejected. Subsequently, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council (ANZFSC), comprising of Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, and New Zealand, decided to reject the application.

The enclosed Final Assessment Report details the background to and consideration of the application, and the reasons for ANZFA's recommendation to reject the application. Please also find enclosed the ANZFSC Communique in relation to its decision on this matter.

I should mention that the decision of ANZFA to recommend rejection and the adoption of this advice by ANZFSC are currently subject to challenge by industry interests in the Federal Court.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact FSANZ General Counsel, John Fladun, on 02 6271 2616, email john.fladun@foodstandards.gov.au

I hope this information is useful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

IAN LINDENMAYER
MANAGING DIRECTOR
6 September 2002