

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 – 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000564

**OUTCOME:** 2 – Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Nanomaterials in Food

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Rice, Janet

**Question:**

- a) Would FSANZ agree that, in relation to nanomaterials, that the *Application Handbook* does not outline the circumstances in which an application is necessary, but provides guidance to and requests nano specific information from manufacturers applying for approval?
- b) What guidance is given to manufacturers to determine whether nanomaterials in food should result in an application to FSANZ?

**Answer:**

- a) No. Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) *Application Handbook* has indicated all the circumstances where and when particle size is important. An application must include particle size, size distribution and morphology information, as well as any size dependent properties.

In the case of food additives, nutritive substances, novel food or novel food ingredients, or contaminants or nature toxicants, the circumstances refer to the situation where particle size is important to achieving a technological purpose. In the case of processing aids, the circumstances refer to that the processing aid is present in food in particulate form. The circumstances are inclusive of nanoscale and microscale materials.

- b) FSANZ has provided guidance to applicants through the *Application Handbook*. In the case of a new food additive, or a new nutritive substance, or a novel food or a novel food ingredient, or a request to change the maximum limit of a contaminant or nature toxicant in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*, an applicant must provide FSANZ with particle size, size distribution and morphology information, as well as any size dependent properties, if particle size is important to achieving a technological purpose and/or the if the particle size influences the toxicity of the substance. In the case of processing aids, an applicant must provide FSANZ particle size, size distribution and morphology information, as well as any size dependent properties if processing aid is present in food in particulate form.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential applications with FSANZ prior to lodgement.