

**Question taken on notice:**

**Senator Fielding –**

‘...would Food Standards Australia New Zealand be willing to accept the job of working on producing the best alcohol information labelling system for consumers after research and market testing?’

**Answer:**

On 2 May 2008 and following the decision of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) requested FSANZ to consider mandatory health warnings on packaged alcohol. The Ministerial Council recommended that in doing so FSANZ consider the broader community and population-wide context of the misuse of alcohol. FSANZ was asked to provide a progress report to the Ministerial Council to allow the Ministerial Council in turn to report progress to COAG.

To progress this report FSANZ will need to undertake consumer and economic research. This work, however, may only go part way towards a ‘best alcohol information labelling system’.

Work beyond what has been requested by the Ministerial Council on 2 May would need to occur either in response to an application to amend the relevant alcohol labelling standards to incorporate a labelling system or via a proposal to do the same, initiated at the request of the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council).

The Ministerial Council is responsible for the formulation of policy guidelines which FSANZ must have regard to in developing food regulatory measures. At present no policy formulation exists on the subject of alcohol labelling. In the absence of such policy it would be very difficult for FSANZ to develop a comprehensive alcohol labelling system.

The development of an alcohol information labelling system would also need to be guided by an assessment of costs versus benefits through a regulatory impact statement (RIS).

This further work would be resource intensive and without additional funding FSANZ would need to reprioritise its current work plan.

**Senator Fielding –**

‘...are there information or warning labels that Food Standards Australia New Zealand has mandated on other foods or drinks? You can go narrow, but you can also go across the whole realm.

**Answer:**

**LABELLING REQUIREMENTS IN THE  
AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS CODE**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Brief summary of labelling requirement</b>	<b>Relevant provision or provisions</b>
1.2.2 – Food identification requirements	The label must indicate the name of the food	Clause 1
	Generally, the label must include lot identification	Clause 2
	The label must indicate the name and address of the supplier of the food	Clause 3
1.2.3 – Mandatory warning and advisory statements and declarations	The label of certain foods must contain mandatory advisory statements	Clause 2
	The label of certain foods must contain warning statements	Clause 3
	The presence of certain substances in food must be included on the label	Clause 4
	Advisory statements must be included for foods containing polyols or polydextrose	Clause 5
1.2.4 – Labelling of ingredients	Generally the label must include a statement of ingredients	Clause 2
	Generally a statement of ingredients must list every ingredient in the food	Clause 3
	Ingredients in the list must be listed by common, descriptive or generic name	Clause 4
	Generally ingredients must be listed in descending order of ingoing weight	Clause 5
	Compound ingredients must be declared in a certain way	Clause 6
	Where alternative ingredients may be used, the label must declare the possible alternatives	Clause 7
	Food additives must be declared in particular ways	Clause 8
	Vitamins and minerals may be declared in particular ways	Clause 9
1.2.5 – Date marking of packaged food	Generally, food must be date marked	Clause 2
	Date markings must be in the prescribed form	Clause 5
	The label must include a statement of storage conditions	Clause 6
1.2.6 – Directions for use and storage	Label must include directions for use and storage in certain circumstances	Clause 2
	Specific foods must contain directions for use and storage	Clause 3
1.2.8 – Nutrition information requirements	Generally, a food must contain a nutrition information panel	Clauses 3 and 4
	Nutrition information panels must contain certain information and declarations and, in some circumstances, be in a certain form	Clause 5

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Brief summary of labelling requirement</b>	<b>Relevant provision or provisions</b>
	If information relating to percentage daily intake is included in the nutrition information panel, that information must be presented in a particular way	Clause 7
	Labelling requirements for food in small packages	Clause 8
	Labelling requirements for food in dehydrated or concentrated form	Clause 9
	Labelling requirements for food that must be rained before consumption	Clause 10
	Labelling requirements for food to be prepared or consumed with other food	Clause 11
	Claims on a label of food in relation to polyunsaturated or monounsaturated fatty acid content of a food must not be made except in certain circumstances	Clause 12
	Claims on a label of food in relation to omega fatty acid content of foods must not be made except in certain circumstances	Clause 13
	Claims on a label of food in relation to low energy must not be made except in certain circumstances	Clause 14
	Claims on a label of food in relation to lactose content must not be made except in certain circumstances	Clause 15
	Claims regarding gluten content are prohibited unless specifically permitted elsewhere in the Code	Clause 16
	Claims on a label of food in relation to salt, sodium or potassium content must not be made except in certain circumstances	Clause 17
1.2.9 – Legibility requirements	Legibility requirements for labels	Clauses 2 and 3
1.2.10 – Characterising ingredients and components of food	The percentage of characterising ingredients and characterising components of a food must be declared in a label	Clause 2
	Characterising ingredients must be declared in a particular way	Clause 5
	Characterising components must be declared in a particular way	Clause 7
1.2.11 – Country of origin requirements (Australia only)	Generally, a label must contain a country of origin statement	Clause 2
1.3.2 – Vitamins and minerals	Claims must not be made about vitamin and mineral content of a food, except in particular circumstances	Clauses 4 to 7
	Where a claim about vitamin and mineral content of a food is made, the label must contain certain information	Clause 9

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Brief summary of labelling requirement</b>	<b>Relevant provision or provisions</b>
1.5.2 – Food produced using gene technology	The label on a package of genetically modified food must include the statement ‘genetically modified’ in conjunction with the name of that food or ingredient or processing aid	Clause 5
1.5.3 – Irradiation of food	The label on a package of irradiated food must include a statement to the effect that the irradiated food has been treated with ionising radiation.	Clause 6
2.2.1 – Meat and meat products	The presence of offal in a food must be declared	Clause 4
	The fat content of minced meat must be declared on a label in certain circumstances	Clause 5
	A declaration and cooking instructions must be provided on a label of raw meat joined or formed into the semblance of a cut of meat	Clause 6
	Certain prescribed names must be used for fermented comminuted processed meats	Clause 8
	Certain prescribed names must be used for fermented comminuted manufactured meat	Clause 9
2.2.3 – Fish and fish products	A declaration and cooking instructions must be provided on a label of raw fish joined or formed into the semblance of a cut or fillet of fish	Clause 3
2.4.1 – Edible oils	The nature of any process which has been used to alter the fatty acid composition of edible oils must be disclosed on a label in certain circumstances	Clause 3
2.6.1 – Fruit juice and vegetable juice	The label on a package of a juice blend must include the names and percentages of each juice present in the blend	Clause 3
2.6.2 – Non-alcoholic beverages and brewed soft drinks	Claims about the tonicity of electrolyte drinks may only be made in certain circumstances	Clause 8
2.6.3 - Kava	A label on a food containing kava must contain certain warning statements	Clause 3
2.6.4 – Formulated caffeinated beverages	A label on a formulated caffeinated beverage must include certain declarations and advisory statements	Clause 3
2.7.1 – Labelling of alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol	A label on a package of an alcoholic beverage must include a statement about the number of standard drinks in the package	Clause 3
	Certain representations about low alcohol, non-intoxicating and non-alcoholic must not be made except in certain circumstances	Clauses 4 to 6

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Brief summary of labelling requirement</b>	<b>Relevant provision or provisions</b>
2.9.1 – Infant formula products	General labelling and packaging requirements for infant formula product	Clauses 11 to 20
	Additional labelling requirements for infant formula products for premature or low birthweight infants	Clause 25
2.9.2 – Foods for infants	Labelling requirements for food for infants	Clauses 5 and 6
2.9.3 – Formulated meal replacements and formulated supplementary foods	Labelling requirements for formulated meal replacements	Clause 3
	Labelling requirements for formulated supplementary foods	Clause 5
	Labelling requirements for formulated supplementary foods for young children	Clause 7
2.9.4 – Formulated supplementary sports foods	The label on a package of formulated supplementary sports food must include certain statements	Clause 3
	The label on a package of high carbohydrate supplement must include certain advisory statements	Subclause 7(2)