



TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FOOD REGULATION (ISFR)

Endorsed by FRSC on 2 May 2014

1. PURPOSE

The role of the Implementation Sub-Committee for Food Regulation (ISFR) is to develop consistent approaches across jurisdictions for implementation and compliance with the Australia New Zealand food regulation system. The work of ISFR may apply to food sourced from domestic producers, export-registered establishments or from imports. ISFR is a sub-committee of the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) and ISFR will provide input to the development of FRSC policies in relation to implementation matters.

2. PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

ISFR will operate according to the following principles:

- Activities will have a national or bi-national focus;
- Apply an integrated approach to implementation, monitoring and compliance;
- Active stakeholder engagement;
- Open, constructive and transparent dialogue;
- Focus on outcomes underpinned by good process;
- Consider regulatory and non-regulatory fit for purpose solutions, and
- ISFR will develop efficient and effective solutions to defined problems. These solutions may be regulatory and non-regulatory in nature.

3. SCOPE

ISFR's primary task is to develop and oversee consistent, bi-national approaches to implementation and compliance with the Australia New Zealand food regulation system. This will apply to the following:

- Interpretation and application of food standards developed by FSANZ, but not to administrative frameworks used by jurisdictions to implement food standards.
- Implementation of policies developed by FRSC; and
- Other matters as requested by FRSC or agreed by ISFR.

In pursuing its work, ISFR may develop, or assist to develop guidelines that facilitate consistent implementation and compliance of food regulation by jurisdictions, or assist industry comply with legislative obligations (e.g. food standards developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand). Guidelines may also be developed for administrative and operational purposes.



ISFR in undertaking its work will aspire, as much as reasonably possible, to:

- Minimise compliance costs to industry and meet the objective of minimum effective regulation;
- Encourage cost-effective approaches to compliance;
- Ensure consistent interpretation of food regulation and food standards with regard to implementation and with appropriate stakeholder communication; and
- Engage local government authorities in the development and implementation of ISFR deliverables, through ISFR's local government representative.

ISFR will develop an annual workplan for FRSC approval. This workplan will stipulate the priority work that ISFR will undertake over a 12 month period. This workplan, once approved by FRSC, will form the basis for regular reporting by ISFR to FRSC.

4. MEMBERSHIP

ISFR members will be either heads of agencies or operational experts at a senior level with the capacity to make and implement decisions about compliance and enforcement issues in their jurisdictions. The membership will comprise:

- One Commonwealth representative from each of the following;
 - Department of Health;
 - Department of Agriculture;
 - Food Standards Australia New Zealand;
- Maximum of two representatives from each State/Territory and New Zealand; and
- One representative from the Australian Local Government Association.

FRSC will appoint the ISFR Chair, who may be independent of the above membership.

5. OPERATION

All information relating to or prepared by/for ISFR is to be treated as confidential, unless otherwise agreed by the ISFR, and only distributed on a strict need-to-know basis.

All agenda papers and reports shall be treated as confidential documents with circulation limited to the ISFR and its sub-committees unless otherwise directed by the ISFR.

ISFR is to make all decisions on a consensus basis. Where consensus cannot be reached, issues will be tabled for consideration by the Food Regulation Standing Committee.