

TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FOOD REGULATION

Endorsed by the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) on 7 May 2020

Purpose

The Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation (ISFR) is a subcommittee established by FRSC to support it in its purpose of ensuring a nationally consistent approach to the implementation and enforcement of food standards.¹ In supporting FRSC, the role of the ISFR is to:

- develop consistent approaches across jurisdictions for implementation, monitoring, compliance and enforcement with the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation System;
- contribute to intelligence (data, information and evidence) gathering by the Food Regulation System;
- provide advice and input to the development and monitoring of FRSC policies in relation to implementation and national / bi-national consistency matters;
- contribute to the evaluation and review of policy established by the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) and standards developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ);
- coordinate jurisdiction-based communication and engagement; and provide consolidated feedback to FRSC; and
- undertake other work agreed by FRSC.

ISFR's role applies equally to imported, exported and domestic food and across the whole food supply chain.

Scope

ISFR's primary task is to promote and facilitate consistent, bi-national (where applicable) approaches to implementation of compliance with and enforcement of the Australia and 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 endorsed by the Forum; 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 FSANZ). Guidelines may also be developed for administrative and operational purposes.

¹ Food Regulation Agreement

ISFR contributes to intelligence gathering (data, information and evidence) by the Food Regulation System that informs decision making. It informs the effective implementation, monitoring and review of nationally agreed standards.

ISFR provides input relating to implementation issues early during the development of policies and contributes to the evaluation and review of policy and standards.

During implementation and evaluation of policy and standards ISFR coordinates jurisdiction-based communication and engagement, listens to stakeholder feedback and provides consolidated feedback to FRSC. This can include advice on improvement opportunities as well as progress towards achieving greater consistency.

Membership

ISFR members will have the authority to make and implement decisions about compliance and enforcement issues in their jurisdictions. The membership will comprise:

- One Australian Government representative from each of the following;
 - Department of Health;
 - Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment;
 - FSANZ;
- 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 and Deputy Chair, who may be independent of the above membership. ISFR is supported by the Food Regulation Secretariat and a Senior Project Officer.

Planning and Reporting

ISFR members will contribute to the whole of Food Regulation System planning that establishes the annual Food Regulation System work plan. FRSC agreed ISFR activities and these Terms of Reference will form the basis of regular reporting by ISFR to FRSC.

Operational Rules

ISFR's operational rules are detailed in the Operating Procedures for the ISFR.