

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

From the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Implementation Sub Committee (ISC) meeting held in August 2012 ISC 28 – August 2012

The Implementation Sub-Committee:

The Australia New Zealand Implementation Sub-Committee is to develop and oversee a consistent approach across jurisdictions to implementation and enforcement of food regulations and standards, regardless of whether food is sourced from domestic producers, export-registered establishments or from imports.

ISC will develop, or assist in the development of guidelines on consistent enforcement of food regulations, which will also be aimed at minimising cost to industry and meeting the objective of minimum effective regulation.

The ISC has membership from the Commonwealth, each State/Territory jurisdiction, New Zealand and a representative of local government. These members will be either heads of their agencies or operational experts at senior level with capacity to make and implement decisions about enforcement issues in their jurisdictions.

Summary of key matters discussed at ISC 28:

1. Voluntary framework for 'scores on doors'.
2. The revised Ministerial Policy Guideline for Food Safety Management in Australia: retail/food service considered.
3. Progress report from the Food:Medicine interface project.
4. Revised edition of the National Food Incident Response Protocol.
5. Guidance documents for implementing Point of Sale Nutrition Information.
6. Update on development of stakeholder engagement strategy.
7. Progress report on implementing mandatory reporting legislation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Act.
8. Review of the ISC strategy for consistent implementation and enforcement of food regulation in Australia to occur in November 2012.
9. Local Government: legislative update from jurisdictions.
10. Coordinated Food Survey Plan.
11. Surveillance risk register.
12. Pine nuts and Pine mouth.

1. Local Government project: Voluntary framework for 'scores on doors'.

A high level framework for the implementation of a voluntary 'scores on doors' system was endorsed by jurisdictions who have chosen to implement this scheme (publicly available performance reporting).

The recommended framework:

- Reliance on compliance inspection regimes conducted within jurisdictions by an 'authorised officer' of an appointed 'enforcement agency' (in most cases, a council Environmental Health Officer).
- Use a standardised checklist template based on compliance with the requirements of the Food Standards Code (FSC) and the relevant jurisdiction's legislation.
- Use a nationally accepted scoring system.
- Calculate a grade from the results of an inspection on core FSC elements using a standardised checklist template.
- A tiered grading scheme to be adopted.

2. Implementation of revised Policy Guideline for Food safety management in retail/food service

A draft implementation strategy for the revised Ministerial Policy Guideline for Food Safety Management in Australia (retail/food service) was discussed.

The strategy proposes that FSANZ, states/territories, Local Government and industry work together in identifying appropriate ways to implement the revised Ministerial Policy Guideline.

Local Government has been engaged in the development of the strategy through the Australian Local Government Association.

The implementation strategy will be provided to the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) in October 2012 for endorsement. Once endorsed, it is estimated that implementation will take up to 2 years to complete.

Local Government state associations will be invited to participate in this work.

3. Point of Sale nutrition information (POSNI) Working Group – update

A kilojoule display user guide template and consumer in-store messages were endorsed for use by jurisdictions that have chosen to implement Point of Sale Nutrition Information legislation.

4. Stakeholder engagement strategy

Workshops have been held in Australia and New Zealand to obtain stakeholder feedback on a draft stakeholder engagement strategy for the food regulation system. A further workshop is due to be held before the strategy is provided to FRSC for endorsement in October 2012.

5. Food-medicine interface project

A review of the processes and systems that are currently employed to resolve/ address issues at the food-medicine interface has been finalised. The outcomes of this review and bi-lateral meetings between FSANZ and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will be discussed by the Food Medicine Interface Working Group.

6. National Food Incident Response Protocol

ISC endorsed a revised version of the National Food Incident Response Protocol. This version has consolidated the protocol into a more succinct document.

The revised protocol will be uploaded to the [Food Regulation Secretariat website](#).

7. Mandatory reporting of death, illness or serious injury (*Competition and Consumer Law 2010 Cth*)

Jurisdictions discussed reports received from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) under the mandatory reporting requirements of the Australian Consumer Law.

It was suggested that peak industry organisations be engaged to provide businesses with clearer guidance about what to report on under these reporting requirements.

The ISC Chair will write to the ACCC outlining concerns with the mandatory reporting processes in relation to food and propose possible solutions.

8. Review of the ISC strategy for consistent implementation and enforcement of food regulation in Australia

ISC has agreed to a process for review of its strategy for consistent implementation of food regulation in Australia (the Strategy).

The review will take place at the ISC planning meeting in November 2012.

9. Local Government: legislative updates from jurisdictions

Key matters discussed concerning local government interaction were:

- Legislative amendment:
 - The first annual report of the operation of the Food Act, drawing on data received by councils has been published: Victoria.
 - Point of Sale Nutrition Information (PoSNI) legislation introduced for certain food businesses: NSW, SA and ACT.
 - Amendments are being made to the food regulations adopting the Food Standards Code to enable alternative childcare food safety requirements to be applied together with infringement fines for failing to follow the new requirements: Tasmania.
 - Food businesses required to have food safety supervisor by August 2013: ACT.
 - The names of food businesses convicted of an offence under the *Food Act 2001* may be placed on a publicly available register: ACT.
- Non regulatory activity:
 - Twelve month state wide trial of 'scores on doors' commenced: NSW.
 - Annual reports on Local Government food regulatory activities: NSW and Victoria.

- Fact sheets updated - Food Safety Supervisor: QLD.
- Safe Food is Everybody's Business DVD and facilitators guide: NT.

10. Coordinated Food Survey Plan

The outcomes report from the May 2012 Coordinated Food Survey Plan workshop was noted. An update on the survey of Cyanogenic Glycosides in Plant-Based Foods was noted.

11. Surveillance risk register

The surveillance risk register was endorsed. The Surveillance Register will be used to track surveillance activities in Australia and New Zealand and identify gaps and focus priority areas where data is required. The register will be regularly reviewed and updated.

12. Pine Nuts and Pine Mouth

ISC endorsed an emerging issues paper and its recommendations on Pine Nuts and Pine Mouth.

The paper may be found on the [NSW Food Authority website](#) and the [FSANZ website](#).

Next ISC meeting

February 2013, New South Wales.