

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND MINISTERIAL FORUM ON FOOD REGULATION

9 April 2020

REVIEW REQUEST

Proposal P1050 - Pregnancy warning labels on alcoholic beverages

The Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (Forum) has requested that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) review the draft variation to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) for Proposal P1050 - Pregnancy warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

Forum Ministers have requested that FSANZ review the draft variation under the criterion in the Food Regulation Agreement regarding an unreasonable cost burden on industry. The Forum requested the review consider the colour requirements and signal wording of the pregnancy warning label.

The Forum maintains its ongoing commitment to mandatory pregnancy warning labels on alcohol to ensure women are appropriately informed about the advice to not consume alcohol while pregnant.

FSANZ has until 22 June 2020 to finalise the review of the draft standard and re-affirm, re-affirm with amendments, or withdraw its approval of the draft standard.

The process for requesting a review

After FSANZ notifies the Forum of a draft standard or variation the Forum may request a review if the Forum believes that one or more of the Criteria/Ground/s set out in the Food Regulation Agreement 2000 (as amended in 2010) (the Agreement) or the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand concerning a Joint Food Standards System (the Treaty) applies. The Criteria / Grounds set out in the Agreement and in the Treaty are:

- (i) it is not consistent with existing policy guidelines set by the Forum;
- (ii) it is not consistent with the objectives of the legislation which establishes FSANZ;
- (iii) it does not protect public health and safety;
- (iv) it does not promote consistency between domestic and international food standards where these are at variance;
- (v) it does not provide adequate information to enable informed choice;
- (vi) it is difficult to enforce or comply with in both practical or resource terms; and / or
- (vii) it places an unreasonable cost burden on industry or consumers.

In exercising this power the Forum must comply with the Agreement and the Treaty. Under the Agreement the Forum will request a review if the Forum considers that one or more of the Criteria applies. The Forum would also, at this point in the process, request a review if New Zealand notifies the Forum of concerns that the standard would be inappropriate for New Zealand (Annex C(2) of the Treaty).