

# FOOD TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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## SUBMISSION

7 February 2011

Attention: **Project Manager – Proposal P1013**

Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
Box 7186,  
Canberra BC,  
ACT, Australia, 2610.

### **Re: Code Maintenance IX - Assessment Report**

FTA Australia has reviewed this [Proposal](#) and endorses the following comments of the Technical Sub Committee:

The Committee considered this Proposal and agreed with Option 2, to prepare draft variations to the Code to incorporate the majority of the proposed amendments with the following comments and exceptions:

1. In Section 3.6 re Standard 1.2.4, Issue 23, the Committee considered that many products would need to be relabeled at an unknown cost although changes could be introduced, if permitted, on a gradual basis as nearly all labels are revised for numerous other reasons and the proposed changes should be permitted to be made at that time rather than at a set time. This measure could be introduced with a ‘sunset’ clause of 2 years for implementation. An example would be the correct use of “Emulsifier” instead of “Stabiliser”.
2. In Section 3.11 re Standard 1.2.10, Issue 40, the Committee considered that in response to Question 3 that required declarations of Characterizing Ingredients should be permitted to be worded as “MAY BE” rather than “MUST BE” be rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. In Section 3.13, re Standard 1.3.1, Issue 46, please note that the latest FEMA “GRAS Flavoring Substances 25” was very recently published in 2010 and should be included in the Code via this Proposal.
4. In Section 3.16 re Standard 1.3.4, Issue 70, the response to Question 5 is “yes”, retain all current references BUT use the latest versions. Preferably if a legal method could be found to write the Standard’s clauses to allow the latest published version should become the recognized reference on the day of publication, it would obviate the current system of the references in the Standard often being out of date and would only be updated when a change is gazetted, sometimes several years later.
5. In this same Section 3.16 in Issue 70, Question 6, the Committee were not aware of any other references that should be included in this Standard.

6. In Section 3.42, re Standard 2.9.1, in Issue 117 the Committee considered that this matter should not be dealt with in a Code Maintenance document but should be a full Proposal with a rationale provided for the removal of these nucleotides. Many manufacturers have possibly incorporated these nucleotides in their products under the belief that these were legal substances and that therefore their products would not cause any harm and/or were beneficial for a very vulnerable population of infants. There is no reason provided for this proposed change other than it is a mistake that has been perpetuated since at least 2002 without comment.
7. In answer to Question 9 pertaining to Issue 117, the Committee considers that all Infant Food manufacturers may be affected as reformulation will be required and pre-printed packaging (often tins) will have to be destroyed and replaced. There is also the matter of parents concerns about changes being made in their infant's food and a "mistake" may cause repercussions in the perception of Infant food manufacturers by the public.
8. In Section 3.47, re Standard 4.5.1, In Issue 128, the Committee considered that Clause 4.5.1 should be amended to comply with the requirements in Standard 1.4.1, Table to Clause 3, rather than deleting the incorrect Clause from 4.5.1, particularly as 4.5.1 applies to Australia only whilst 1.4.1 applies to both Australia and New Zealand.

If there are any queries regarding this submission, please contact the Technical Secretary, Tony Zipper, Telephone (03) 9532 8213, Fax (03) 9532 8213, Mobile 0409 324 075, E-mail [tzipper@dodo.com.au](mailto:tzipper@dodo.com.au).

We would appreciate being maintained on the circulation list for any changes in this matter and to receiving notification of the next step concerning this [Proposal](#).

Yours sincerely,

Rob Richards – President  
Food Technology Association - Australia