

Response ID ANON-JN9Z-F86X-Q

Submitted to P1062 - Defining added sugars for claims
Submitted on 2023-09-25 17:43:45

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Which one of the following groups do you most affiliate with?

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What is the name of your organisation?

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NHMRC

What is your position title?

Please write N/A if this does not apply.:

[REDACTED]

Are you the contact person for your organisation?

No

If you are not the contact person for your organisation, please provide an alternative contact and details. If not applicable, please leave blank.

Contact person's name:

[REDACTED]

Email address:

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Telephone:

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Position title:

[REDACTED]

Have you read the P1062 – Defining added sugars for claims call for submission paper?

Yes

Confidential information

All submissions will be published, including redacted versions of confidential submissions. We will not publish material that we accept as confidential. Does your submission contain confidential information?

No. My submission does not contain confidential information.

Proposed changes to 'no added sugar(s)' claim conditions

1 FSANZ proposes to continue to set 'no added sugar(s)' claim conditions based on the addition of ingredients to foods (see section 5.2 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC supports this approach.

2 FSANZ proposes a food displaying a 'no added sugar(s)' claim must not contain an 'added sugars' as an added ingredient including an ingredient of a compound ingredient. FSANZ proposes defining 'added sugars' for this claim condition (see section 5.2.1.4 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach or the defined added sugars (see below)?:

NHMRC considers the update to the proposed definition for 'added sugars' is generally consistent with the approach outlined in the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines to limit intake of foods containing added sugars.

NHMRC notes the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines include examples of other sugars besides sucrose, such as glucose, fructose and corn syrup, when defining added sugars.

3 FSANZ proposes 'no added sugar(s)' and 'unsweetened' claims are not permitted on foods containing the hexose monosaccharide D-tagatose, as an ingredient, consistent with existing claim conditions in the Code. As D-tagatose is a hexose monosaccharide, it is captured in the definition of 'added sugars' (see section 5.2.2 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC considers the approach is generally consistent with that outlined in the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines to limit intake of foods containing added sugars.

4 FSANZ proposes foods containing low energy sugars (mono- and disaccharides), as ingredients, listed in subsection S11—2(3) of Schedule 11 not be permitted to display 'unsweetened' claims (see section 5.2.2 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC considers the approach is generally consistent with that outlined in the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines to limit intake of foods containing added sugars.

5 FSANZ proposes a food displaying a 'no added sugar(s)' claim must not contain the fruit products listed below as an added ingredient (including as an ingredient of a compound ingredient). FSANZ proposes to exempt fruit products which are lemon or lime fruit (see section 5.3 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach or the fruit products listed?:

NHMRC considers that the approach is generally consistent with that outlined in the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines to limit intake of foods containing added sugars.

While not explicitly mentioning fruit juice or dried fruit as added sugar the 2013 Dietary Guidelines note:

- they are foods to be limited and only used occasionally as a substitute for other types of fruit. It is preferable that those with no added sugar be chosen. A serving is 125 millilitres of fruit juice or 30 grams of dried fruit.
- whole fruit is preferable to fruit juice however the occasional use of fruit juice may assist with nutrient intake when fresh, frozen or tinned fruit supply is sub-optimal.
- fruit juice is energy-dense and if consumed in excess, it can displace other nutritious foods from the diet and may lead to problems such as obesity.
- babies who fall asleep while continuing to feed from a bottle containing infant formula, fruit juice or other sugar-containing liquid can develop a severe form of tooth decay.

The 2012 Infant Feeding Guidelines add:

- fruit juice is not necessary or recommended for infants under 12 months of age.
- In the second year of life, water and pasteurised full-cream milk are preferred drinks and should be offered in a cup rather than a feeding bottle. Sugar-sweetened drinks and fruit juice should be limited.

6 FSANZ proposes a fruit product which is the food for sale (e.g. fruit juice) be permitted to make a 'no added sugar(s)' claim. This includes when the food is sold as a singular fruit (e.g. apple juice) or a blend of different fruits (e.g. blend of fruit juices), providing the food contains no 'added sugars' or other products identified in claim conditions, as added ingredients. A blend or combination of different fruit products (e.g. fruit juice and fruit purée) will not be permitted to make the claim. FSANZ also proposes to clarify that fruit does not include legumes, fungi, herbs, nuts and spices for the purpose of the claim conditions (see section 5.3 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC considers the approach is consistent with the claim conditions proposed.

7 FSANZ proposes 'no added sugar(s)' claims are not permitted when the concentration of sugars in the food is increased from the hydrolysis of carbohydrates during food manufacture, except when the sugars concentration in cereal-based plant milks made using hydrolysis is $\leq 1.5\%$ (and the product otherwise meets claim conditions) (see section 5.3.2 of the Calls for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC considers the approach is consistent with the intent of 'no added sugar'.

8 FSANZ proposes to maintain the existing condition that a food displaying an 'unsweetened' claim must meet the conditions for a 'no added sugar(s)' claim, noting that the amended 'no added sugar(s)' claim conditions will apply (see section 5.4 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC considers that the approach is generally consistent with that outlined in the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines to limit intake of foods containing added sugars.

9 FSANZ proposes to maintain the existing condition for intense sweeteners, sorbitol, mannitol, glycerol, xylitol, isomalt, maltitol syrup or lactitol. FSANZ proposes a food containing low energy sugars (mono- and disaccharides) listed in subsection S11—2(3) of schedule 11, as an ingredient (including an ingredient of a compound ingredient), not be permitted to display an 'unsweetened' claim (see section 5.4 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC considers the approach is consistent with the intent of 'no added sugar'.

10 FSANZ is proposing a two-year transition period to allow producers, manufacturers and importers time to make any required labelling changes for products carrying 'no added sugar(s)' or 'unsweetened' claims to comply with the new claim conditions (see section 7 of the Call for submissions document).

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

NHMRC has no comment.

Data and evidence

11 Do you have any data or are you aware of published data on the number of products with 'no added sugar(s)' or 'unsweetened' claims in Australia and/or New Zealand (see data used for this proposal at section 3.1 of the Call for submissions document)?

No

If yes, please upload your file here.:

No file uploaded

12 Do you have any evidence or are you aware of published literature on consumer understanding of and responses to 'no added sugar(s)' or 'unsweetened' claims on food products (see evidence used for this proposal at section 3.2 of the Call for submissions report and Supporting Document 1)?

No

If yes, please upload your file here.:

No file uploaded

13 Do you have any data or know of any published data on the costs of labelling changes per stock keeping unit or package type (see data used for this proposal at Attachment E to the Call for submissions document)?

No

If yes, please upload your file here:

No file uploaded

Additional comments

Comments and other input

Additional comments and input:

NHMRC considers the update to the proposed definition for 'added sugars' for claims may help clarify potential consumer misunderstanding of ingredients/processes which sweeten and increase the content of mono and disaccharides in food.

NHMRC cannot currently comment on whether there will be any changes to recommendations on added sugars in the review of the Dietary Guidelines

currently underway.

Please upload additional files here.:

No file uploaded

Feedback

What is your level of satisfaction with using this platform to complete your submission?

Not Answered

Do you have any feedback you would like to provide to FSANZ regarding this new platform?

Not Answered

If yes, please provide details.: