

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017–2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000759

OUTCOME: 2.4

Topic: Infant formula and nanomaterials

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Janet Rice

Question:

The Forum on Food Regulation's policy for ensuring the safety of infant formula recognises that children are particularly vulnerable: "because they have immature immune systems and organs...For some infants, infant formula products may be the sole or principal source of nutrition. For these reasons, there is a greater level of risk to be managed compared to other populations."

As a result of this higher level of exposure and risk, the policy sets out pre-market safety assessment requirements for the use of ingredients in baby formula: Pre-market assessment...should be required for any substance proposed to be used in infant formula and follow-on formula that: i. does not have a history of safe use at the proposed level in these products in Australia and New Zealand; or ii. has a history of safe use in these products in Australia and New Zealand, but which, having regard to source, has a different form/structure, or is produced using a substantially different technique or technology.* (emphasis added). Further, the Food Standards Code prohibits the use of nutritive and novel substances in food unless they are expressly permitted.**

- (a) Are any nano scale ingredients explicitly permitted for use in baby formula?
- (b) Does FSANZ agree that engineered nanomaterials would be covered by this policy both in terms of the technology used and the structures produced?

*Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council, Food Regulation Standing Committee, Policy Guideline, Regulation of Infant Formula.

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/fofr/fofrpolicy/Documents/Infant%20Formula%20May%202011.pdf>

**Food Standards Australia New Zealand, *Australia New Zealand Food Code*, Standards 1.1.1 and 1.5.1. <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx>

Answer:

- (a) The Code neither permits nor prohibits the presence of nano scale particles in ingredients including nutritive substances that may be used in manufacture of infant formula.
- (b) The Policy Guideline foresees that any new substance proposed to be used in infant formula would undergo a premarket assessment.

Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Clearance Sheet

DETAILS	
Hearing:	Budget Estimates 2017–2018, 29 & 30 May 2017
Questioner	Senator Janet Rice
PDR Number:	SQ17-000759
Question Title:	Infant formula and nanomaterials
Due Date for Parliamentary:	26 June 2017
Due Date to Committee:	/ / 2017
Division/Agency	Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Contact SES Officer:	Name: Mr Mark Booth (CEO, FSANZ) [Redacted]
Contact Action Officer:	Name: Ms Janine Lewis [Redacted]
Minister's Office Clearance:	Cleared / Not Cleared Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Comments: