

NC 405-26
21 July 2026

Call for information: Common commencement date for labelling changes

Introduction

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is considering introducing a single, annual commencement date for future labelling changes it initiates. Under this approach, most labelling changes would take effect on one set date each year (for example, 30 May), giving food businesses greater planning certainty and enabling changes to be bundled into a single update. This is expected to reduce redesign and implementation costs, minimise operational disruption and support more efficient compliance across the food supply chain.

FSANZ welcomes stakeholder feedback on adopting an annual common commencement date for future labelling changes to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

Purpose

The common commencement date consultation is intended to:

- Explore potential risks and benefits of the annual common commencement date.
- Confirm a preferred annual common commencement date.

Public health and safety considerations

FSANZ would continue to assess the public health and safety implications associated with adopting the proposed labelling commencement date on a case-by-case basis. FSANZ would retain the ability to make changes outside of the annual common commencement date where appropriate.

Transition periods and stock-in-trade provisions

Appropriate transition periods and stock-in-trade provisions would continue to be determined on a case-by-case basis. FSANZ will continue to consider the specific risks and complexities of each change in its decisions.

The proposed introduction of an annual common commencement date will only apply to future labelling changes. It has no impact on implementation timelines for decisions that have already been made by FSANZ.

Minimising industry disruption and cost

An annual common commencement date would allow food businesses to consolidate labelling changes into one scheduled update. Rather than rolling out multiple label revisions throughout the year, businesses can make all required changes at once. This approach is intended to limit labelling redesign costs and operational disruptions because food businesses can plan for a single changeover window.

It complements FSANZ's consideration of appropriate transition periods and allowing stock-in-trade provisions to minimise the compliance burden of label changes.

Improving regulator coordination

An annual common commencement date provides a predictable cycle of regulatory changes. This would help enforcement agencies prepare and coordinate their compliance activities.

Training, monitoring programs and guidance for businesses can be developed around the known changeover date, reducing the complexity of tracking multiple effective dates and enabling consistent enforcement.

Proposed common commencement date

Following initial targeted consultations with industry stakeholders, FSANZ proposes **30 May** as the annual common commencement date. FSANZ understands this time of year would be least disruptive for food production cycles.

Recent label changes

Over the last 5 years, FSANZ has instigated the following 6 label changes:

Label Change	Gazetted Date	Transition period (years)	Transition Window
Energy labelling on alcoholic beverages (P1059)	13 August 2025	3	13 August 2025 – 13 August 2028
Infant formula products (P1028)	13 September 2024	5	13 September 2024 – 13 September 2029
Defining added sugars for claims (P1062)	14 December 2023	4	13 December 2023 – 13 December 2027
Composition and labelling of electrolyte drinks (P1030)	13 August 2022	2	12 August 2022 – 12 August 2024
Very low energy diets variation (A1230)	2 June 2022	3	1 June 2022 – 1 June 2025
Plain English allergen labelling (P1044)	26 February 2021	3	25 February 2021 – 25 February 2024

The proposed common commencement date would reduce the number of changeover dates by allowing multiple labelling changes to take effect on the same date.

For example, if a common commencement date had been in place, the transition periods for Proposal P1030 and Proposal P1044 could have ended on the same date. A common commencement date could also be set to avoid busy manufacturing periods, reducing the likelihood of transition end-dates falling in December, as occurred for Proposal P1062.

Questions for submitters

FSANZ invites all stakeholders – including food industry members, public health organisations, consumer groups and government agencies – to provide feedback on the proposed annual common commencement date approach. In particular, we seek input on the following key questions:

1. Do you agree in principle with establishing an annual common commencement date for FSANZ-initiated label changes? Please explain why or why not. We are interested in any anticipated benefits or potential concerns with this approach.
2. Do you agree with 30 May as an appropriate annual common commencement date? If not, what are the disadvantages of this date? What are preferable alternative dates and why?

Additional feedback is welcome on any implications we should consider.

What happens next?

Following the consultation, a summary report will be published on the FSANZ website. Information and evidence provided by submitters and gathered independently by FSANZ will be considered in our review of the potential risks and benefits of adopting an annual common commencement date.

How to provide your response

The online survey response form in [FSANZ's Consultation Hub](#) allows you to submit a response to the call for information.

Consent to collect personal information

Personal details will not be published (e.g. individual names, direct phone numbers, personal email addresses or addresses of private individuals). For information on how FSANZ manages personal information when you provide your response, see [FSANZ's privacy policy](#).

About confidential information

Under section 114 of the [Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991](#), some information provided to FSANZ cannot be disclosed. We are required to treat information as confidential if it identifies trade secrets relating to food and any other information relating to food, the commercial value of which would be or could reasonably be expected to be destroyed or diminished by disclosure.

In the "Confidential Information" section, you will be asked if you have any confidential information you wish to provide. Note that you can request that any part of your response be considered confidential, and you must provide justification for why the information meets the 4 criteria for confidential information.

If FSANZ does not agree that the information you have requested to be confidential meets the criteria for confidential information, you will be given an opportunity to withdraw your response.

Please note, confidential information in responses may be subject to release under the provisions of the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#).