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Submitter:

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Contact person:



SUBMISSION

FSANZ P1025 Proposal

Information regarding the submitter

Dairy Goat Co-operative (N.Z.) Ltd (abbreviated as DGC) is a manufacturer, developer and exporter of premium consumer packaged nutritional powders primarily for infants and young children. It is a leading exporter, and now services around 20 international markets via its marketing partner and joint venture relationships. The markets are located primarily in Asia, Europe and Oceania.

This submission was prepared by Caroline Keast, Senior R&D Technologist on behalf of DGC (please refer to the contact details above).

DGC's overall position

DGC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the reform and rewriting of the New Zealand Food Standards Code. DGC supports the objectives of the revision to help modernise, clarify application and interpretation of the Code in some areas.

As a manufacturer of infant formula products and nutritional products for young children, and as an associate member of the Infant Nutrition Council Ltd (abbreviated as INC), DGC supports the submission and comments prepared by the INC in relation to FSANZ proposal P1025.

However, DGC would like to provide some additional comments (see below) relating to the rewriting of the existing FSANZ standard 2.9.3, now coming under Chapter 2, Part 9, Division 3 of the proposed revision of the Code. We would like to mention also that the issue identified and outlined below for sections 2.125 and 2.126 of the proposed revised Code, was also identified in other sections of the Code coming under Chapter 2, Part 9, Division 1 for infant formula products (i.e. section 2.91) and we refer FSANZ to the INC's submission for further details.

DGC's comments regarding Chapter 2, Part 9, Division 3, Subdivision D Formulated Supplementary Foods for Young children

- Section 2.124:
 - o Formulated supplementary food for young children is defined as a formulated food for children aged 1 to 3 years. This definition is replicating the text used in the interpretation section of the existing FSANZ standard 2.9.3. However, we understand the interpretation given by FSANZ to the words “**to 3 years**” is **3 years up until a child turns 4 years of age (48 months)**.
 - o We would like to point out that FSANZ's interpretation of age ranges to define young children is not aligned with that of Codex (and other countries) which defines young children as persons more than 12 months up to the age of 3 years (36 months).
 - o For that reason, the addition of a note to clarify the interpretation of the age range would be helpful.
- Section 2.125, subsection 2:
 - o Subsection 2 states that a vitamin or mineral may be **used as a nutritive substance** in a formulated food for young children in accordance with requirements specified in the same subsection. The words “**used as a nutritive substance**” replace the word “**added**” currently used in the equivalent sections of the existing FSANZ standard 2.9.3 (namely Division 4, section 6, subsections 2 and 3)
 - o By replacing the word "added" with the words “used as a nutritive substance”, FSANZ is narrowing the application of the subsection. Vitamins and minerals are not solely added to products as nutritive substances. Some vitamins and minerals have multiple roles and may be added as nutritive substances and/or as food additives and/or as processing aids. Section 2.125 subsection 2 ought to apply to vitamins and minerals used as nutritive substances and/or food additives and/or processing aids.
- Section 2.126, subsections 1 (b), 2 (b) and 3 (c):
 - o For the subsections listed above and as outlined for section 2.125, the word “added” used in the equivalent sections of the existing FSANZ standard 2.9.3 is being replaced with the words “used as a nutritive substance”. This narrows the application of the subsections and is not in keeping with the equivalent sections of the existing FSANZ standard 2.9.3.
 - o Some vitamins and minerals have multiple roles and may be added as food additives and/or processing aids and this needs to be taken account in subsections 1 (b), 2 (b) and 3 (c).