

## **Proposal P1034**

### **Chemical Migration from Packaging into Food**

#### **Major Procedure**

#### **Summary**

The NSW Food Authority (Food Authority) supports option 4 in the call for submissions paper dated 10 June 2016. The Food Authority concurs with FSANZ that option 4 is the most appropriate choice given that current evidence assigns a low risk to chemical migration from packaging into food (CMPF).

The Food Authority concurs that existing Food Standards Code requirements for food packaging are sufficient to manage CMPF from both the domestic food supply and food imported into Australia.

#### **Specific Issues**

The Food Authority acknowledges the comprehensive risk assessment conducted by FSANZ as part of Proposal 1034. The Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) analysis conducted by FSANZ on 1300 chemicals concluded there is a low risk arising from CMPF.

The Food Authority supports FSANZ undertaking further work in regard to the specific compounds, diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) and Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) noting the results from the TTC analysis for these two compounds. The Food Authority will re-consider its view on these two compounds once further information is available.

In supporting Option 4, the Food Authority considers that a guideline prepared by the Implementation Sub-Committee for Food Regulation (ISFR) for CMPF is the most appropriate management strategy.

Information prepared by FSANZ in Safe Food Australia (a Guide to the Food Safety Standards) concerning Standard 3.2.2 clause 9 Food Packaging would be useful in this guideline as it provides:

- a description of existing Food Standards Code requirements concerning food packaging materials.
- identifies that the food industry is responsible for sourcing appropriate material for food packaging application.
- provides appropriate resources that may be used by industry to demonstrate due diligence in regards to Chapter 3 obligations to ensure that food packaging material is fit for intended use (e.g. Australian Standard 2070:1999).

Jurisdictions in consultation with the food industry could then review existing food packaging resource material to identify whether additional resources are required.

An ISFR guideline for CMPF would be publicly available to all stakeholders, therefore providing access to small-medium enterprises (SME's). This would address the potential concern with resource availability to SME businesses identified in Proposal 1034. Jurisdictions, through their own networks could then promote the availability of this resource to SME businesses.

Based on evidence provided in Proposal 1034, the Food Authority does not currently consider that a preventative approach (e.g. audit) is required by industry for CMPF. Demonstration of appropriate supply of food packaging materials at inspection is considered sufficient, noting that the majority of reputable food packaging material suppliers implement Australian Standard 2070-1999 or follow international regulations concerning food packaging material supply.

## **ENDS**

**The views expressed in this submission may or may not accord with those of other NSW Government agencies. The NSW Food Authority has a policy which encourages the full range of NSW agency views to be submitted during the standards development stages before final assessment. Other relevant NSW Government agencies are aware of and agree with this policy.**