

submissions

From: submissions
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SUBMISSIONS TO FSANZ - [REDACTED]

Please find attached the FTAA submissions for:

P1034: PDF File.

Please note that as FTAA is an organisation representing about 100 food companies, only the following questions in P1034 have responses that are relevant to peak bodies, etc:
Questions 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10.

Regards,

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[REDACTED]

RESPONSE TEMPLATE

All stakeholders are invited to respond to questions posed in this Consultation Paper.

Please indicate if you are a:

(required)

- ☐ Raw material provider
- ☐ Packaging manufacturer/converter/provider
- ☒ Peak industry/trade association
- ☐ Food business (manufacturer/importer/brand owner/retailer)
- ☐ Consumer
- ☐ Government representative (state/territory or Commonwealth agency)
- ☐ Public health representative
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If you are a business, please indicate the approximate number of employees in your business:

- ☐ 1–20 ☐ 20–200 ☐ > 200



Question 1 (refer to p.9)

What concerns, if any, do you have about food packaging in relation to food safety?

☐ None

Please provide details of your concerns

FTAA has concerns about the possible migration of volatile and other chemicals from packaging into food as consumed. These concerns concern every aspect of the packaging cycle and not only those packaging materials that have direct contact with the food. Many types of packaging materials are used in the transport, storage as well as the retail sale packaging that the consumer purchases. Many of these materials are not perceived or known to the consumer.

1. Packaging that is used in production cycle includes packaging that is used for raw materials that may be sourced from many places and produced and packed under the large variety of conditions.
2. Although microbiological load has been considered the most important safety topic, there are considerations of production, storage, transport and packaging that have been ignored. Migration of chemicals into food is only one factor.
3. There are many overseas and Australian Standards, Regulations and Guides, etc, some enforceable and many not enforceable, that impact on the food supply chain besides Standards 1.4.1 and 1.4.3.
4. There are chemicals that migrate into food that may appear to have no immediate health effects but there are insufficient studies on chronic low exposure to be certain that there

Question 2 (refer to p.9)

What measures do you think could be implemented to resolve these concerns?

☐ None

Please provide details

FTAA suggest the following actions should be undertaken in relation to this matter before any regulations or standards are introduced:

1. Investigate and discover all relevant and particularly recent information about exposure to chemicals from packaging materials .
2. All overseas standards and regulations be considered and used as templates for Australia and New Zealand, where relevant.

Question 3 (refer to p.11)

If you are a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier, please detail the types (s) and relative volumes for the different food packaging materials produced by your business and whether the main components are imported or made locally (in Australia or New Zealand).

Type of packaging material (for example)	Volume (ktpa*)	Local/Imported
Carton board (folding)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Cardboard/paper (virgin)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Cardboard/paper (recycled)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic mono-layers	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic multi-layers	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic laminate	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic rigid	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic co-extruded	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic (recycled)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Metal	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Composites (eg. Paper/foil/plastic)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Glass	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Ceramic	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported

*Kilo tonnes per annum

Question 4 (refer to p.12)

If you are a peak body/trade association, do you have the expertise to offer food safety advice on chemical migration from packaging into food (CMPF) to businesses within the packaging supply chain?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Some individual members of FTAA may have the required expertise and experience but as an organisation this type of information gathering is not part of our charter.

Question 5 (refer to p.12)

As a peak body/trade association, is there a need for access to further advice on CMPF?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

1. The scope of the present day problem and provisional projections for future exposure requires to be provided.
2. Nano materials would appear to be an area that requires exploration in regard to migration from packaging into food.
3. In at least the short term, labelling of the presence of nano materials may be required, until sufficient information regarding safety aspects is published.
4. The use of "active packaging" should be included in this matter, e.g. moisture, oxygen protection, exclusion, etc.

Question 6 (refer to p.13)

Can you please identify the risk identification, characterisation and mitigation strategies that your business uses and whether you use any others?

Please indicate which responses apply

- ☐ Adherence to either a mandatory or voluntary standard, Code of Practice (CoP), handbook or guideline that provides guidance on mitigation of potential risks associated with CMPF
- ☐ Prohibition of specific chemicals that should not be present in food if it is determined that they may migrate into food and present a significant risk
- ☐ Prescriptive regulatory requirements for CMPF to address identified risks (e.g. maximum limits, migratory limits)
- ☐ Recognition of other countries' approaches and/or requirements used to mitigate risk and adopting these for use in Australia/New Zealand
- ☐ Use of certificates of compliance confirming that packaging and packaging inputs adhere to a specific CoP, industry standard or regulation
- ☐ Instructions in the form of labelling requirements to mitigate risks at the consumer level (e.g. preparation instructions)
- ☐ Introduction of a post-market incident response mechanism (for example, to review poor or lack of application of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP))
- ☐ Establishment by packaging and food manufacturing companies of internal specifications and due diligence systems for packaging supply/use
- ☐ Other

Question 7 (refer to p.14)

If you are a food business (manufacturer/importer/brand owner/retailer):

Is information readily available on whether or not food packaging (including for home brand products) is made from recycled materials?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 8 (refer to p.14)

If yes to Question 7, how do you ensure that packaging manufactured from recycled materials does not contain chemicals that could migrate into food at levels of potential concern?

- ☐ In-house testing
- ☐ Request Declaration of Compliance
- ☐ Auditing of supplier
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Question 9 (refer to p.16)

If you are a packaging or food manufacturer, or industry body, is using another countries' legislation (eg US/EU) suitable to ensure compliance with your customer's needs?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

There is very little else available in Australia.

Although customer's may not specifically request compliance with particular overseas Standards there is a requirement for Australia and New Zealand companies to ensure that as far as possible, food is safe and of the expected quality.

Also most reputable Australia/New Zealand companies do not want to suffer a recall and the attendant publicity for the lack of a quality assurance procedure that is available, albeit outside Australia.

Question 10 (refer to p.16)

In your experience, do the EU or US requirements or guidelines and other CoPs adequately manage risks from CMPF from all recycled materials?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Although this question is outside the expertise of FTAA, it was suggested that possibly TGA may have experience/guidelines on this matter.

Question 11 (refer to p.17)

What would you see as the advantages and disadvantages of a co-regulatory approach to managing CMPF?

Advantages

Disadvantages

Question 12 (refer to p.17)

Does the Australian Standard for Plastic Materials for Food Contact Use – AS2070-1999 supply useful guidance to industry?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 13 (refer to p.17)

Are there other pertinent industry standards (Australian/New Zealand or International) that you reference and adhere to regularly?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 14 (refer to p.18)

Would you see benefits if a more prescriptive approach to packaging regulations were introduced?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 15 (refer to p.18)

Regardless of whether you buy or manufacture packaging, do you have a food safety or quality management program for that packaging?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 16 (refer to p.18)

*What are the key elements pertaining to chemical migration from packaging of this program (if you have one)?
For example, do you comply with a code of practice(s) or a specialist customised in-house program.*

- ☐ Comply with requirements in Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
- ☐ Comply with AS 2070-1999
- ☐ Comply with Good Manufacturing Practice
- ☐ Comply with EU regulations
- ☐ Comply with US regulations
- ☐ Comply with CoP (if so, which?)
- ☐ Comply with customised in-house program
- ☐ Ensure through chain product stewardship
- ☐ Other

Question 17 (refer to p.18)

*As a food business, what quality assurance and quality controls do you currently use to mitigate risks from CMPF?
Please provide examples.*

Quality Assurance

Quality Controls

Question 18 (refer to p.18)

As a food business, do you have in-house technical capacity or expertise related to packaging?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 19 (refer to p.18)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), if you print on the materials that you produce, do you have a quality assurance and quality control system (or similar) which includes printing inks and related products (eg. resins, adjuvants, mineral oil)?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 20 (refer to p.18)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), do your quality assurance/quality control systems consider the end uses of the packaging?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 21 (refer to p.18)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), do you always prepare a Declaration of Compliance with existing legislation in order to meet your customers' needs?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 22 (refer to p.18 and SD3)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), as a result of international responses to issues with CMPF (eg. di-2-ethylhexyl adipate (DEHA)), and management measures undertaken by overseas manufacturers (eg. reformulation), have you adopted similar mitigation measures?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 23 (refer to p.18 and SD3)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), are you aware if semicarbazide is still used in manufacturing of food packaging materials in Australia and/or New Zealand?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Please detail any other comments you have on the Consultation Paper and the issues raised:

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