



7 July 2023

(23-4608)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Notifying Member: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Foods (bivalve molluscs) sold in Australia (both imported and domestically produced)
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5.	Title of the notified document: Assessment (Call for Submissions report and supporting document(s)) for Application A1243 Harmonisation of marine biotoxin standards for bivalve shellfish. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 24 https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1243Harmonisation-of-marine-biotoxin-standards-for-bivalve-shellfish-.aspx
6.	Description of content: To align with international standards and to protect public health and safety, FSANZ has drafted an amendment to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to amend the maximum levels (MLs) for diarrhetic shellfish toxins (DST) and paralytic shellfish toxins (PST) with the equivalent MLs set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and with those set in New Zealand. MLs for marine biotoxins are necessary in order to protect public health and safety, as marine biotoxins cause serious and sometimes long-term toxicity in humans. The proposed changes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Lower the ML for DST, expressed as okadaic acid equivalent, from 0.20 to 0.16 mg/kg in bivalve molluscs;– Define PST in mg saxitoxin dihydrochloride equivalents/kg rather than mg saxitoxin equivalents/kg. The net effect of this change to a more specific reporting unit is to lower the ML for PST from 0.8 to approximately 0.6 mg/kg. All applications to change the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> , must be assessed in the context of the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. the protection of public health and safety;b. the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; andc. the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct. FSANZ must also have regard to the promotion of consistency between domestic and international food standards.
7.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety , <input type="checkbox"/> animal health , <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection , <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease , <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.

8.	<p>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): Codex Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs: CODEX STAN 292-2008</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
9.	<p>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> (available in English)</p>
10.	<p>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): Notification to Australian and New Zealand Government anticipated early November 2023 with adoption (gazettal) to follow approximately three months later, pending Government consideration. See Item 11 below.</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 6 July 2023</p>
11.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): Mid January 2025, after a one year transition period.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p>Final date for comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 5 September 2023</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Food Standards Australia New Zealand PO Box 5423 KINGSTON ACT 2604 Australia E-mail: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au</p>
13.	<p>Text(s) available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Documents are available from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website: https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1243Harmonisation-of-marine-biotoxin-standards-for-bivalve-shellfish-.aspx.</p> <p>Copies are also available from: The Australian SPS Notification Authority GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601 Australia E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>