



Edition 48 – September 2020

MQA Newsletter

Welcome to the Melbourne Quality Assurance newsletter.



Part 2: Foodborne Illness Prevention

Foodborne illnesses are a global public health concern. Good hygienic practices and good manufacturing practices play a vital role in preventing foodborne illnesses. [Read me.](#)

RECALL ALERT

Media released food recalls of **July 2020**:

- Physical Contamination (Plastic) | [Gerns Smallgoods](#)
- Microbial Contamination | [Inner UHT Soy Milk](#)
- Undeclared Allergen (Peanut) | [David Jones Milk Chocolate Sultanas](#)
- Excess Toxin (Sulphur Dioxide) | [Dried Bamboo Fungus](#)
- Undeclared Allergens (Soy and Dairy) | [Happy Chef Fresh Sauces](#)
- Undeclared Allergens (Shellfish) | [Miss Chow's Vegetarian Dumplings](#)
- Microbial Contamination (Listeria Monocytogenes) | [Linke's Central Meat Store Leberwurst](#)
- Possible Microbial Contamination (Listeria Monocytogenes) | [Godel's Chicken Wurst](#)
- Microbial Contamination | [Inner UHT Almond Milk](#)
- Microbial Contamination | [Milk Lab Almond Milk](#)



Note: The FSANZ information is reproduced with permission of Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

FSANZ has received a new application for the following:

- **A1206** Subtilisin from GM *Bacillus licheniformis* as a PA (enzyme)
- **A1207** Rebaudioside M as Steviol Glycoside
- **M1018** Maximum Residue Limits (2020)

FSANZ has called for comment/submissions on the following:

- **A1175** Rapeseed protein isolate as a novel food: Submissions by 6pm (Canberra time) 04 September
- **A1180** Natural Glycolipids as a preservative in non-alcoholic beverages: Submissions by 6pm (Canberra time) 17 September
- **A1186** Soy Leghemoglobin in meat analogue products: Submissions by 6pm (Canberra time) 17 September
- **A1198** Food derived from enhanced yield & herbicide-tolerant corn line DP202216: Submissions by 6pm (Canberra time) 17 September
- **P1054** Pure and highly concentrated caffeine products: Submissions by 6pm (Canberra time) 11 September

Repeated Other FSANZ News

- FSANZ Food Recall Action Officer Contact List has been updated to [edition 15-07-20](#)
- [Pregnancy warning labels](#) are now a requirement

Melbourne Quality Assurance

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CALENDAR

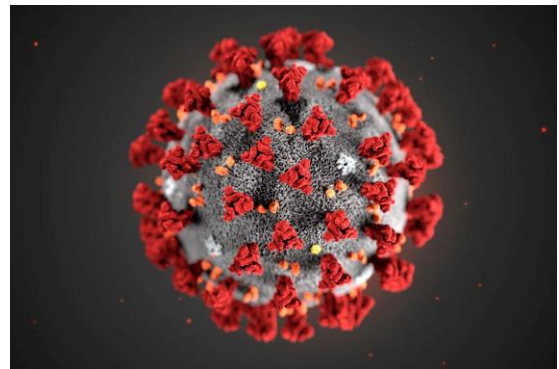
- Food for Thought: [Nutrition Decisions](#) | Sydney | 13 October
- [Food Safety Summit](#) | USA | 19-22 October
- [SQF Global](#) | Online | 27-30 October
- [Foodservice Australia](#) | Sydney | 8-10 November 2020
- [Australian Food Safety Week](#) | Online | 14-21 November
- [Waste and Recycling Expo](#) | Online | 25-26 November
- Food for Thought: [The Future of Nutrition](#) | Sydney | 8 December
- [GFSI Conference](#) | Singapore | 2-5 March 2021
- [FHA Food and Beverage](#) | Singapore | 2-5 March 2021
- [FoodTech Japan](#) | Japan | 9-12 March 2021
- [Sustainable Foods Summit](#) | Singapore | 15-16 March 2021
- [National CleanTech Conference](#) | Brisbane | 22-23 March 2021
- [Mega Trans \(Logistics\)](#) | Melbourne | April 2021
- [Food Allergen Management Symposium](#) | **TBA** | **TBA** May 2021
- [National Manufacturing Week](#) | Melbourne | 11-14 May 2021
- [Food Allergy Week](#) | Online | May 2021
- [Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference](#) | Melbourne | 24-27 May 2021
- [Sustainable Food Summit](#) | Amsterdam | 9-11 Jun 2021
- [Free From \(Allergy\) Show](#) | Melbourne | 16-18 Jul 2021
- [Food Pro Exhibition](#) | Sydney | 25-28 July 2021

CONSUMER TIPS

Soap vs. COVID-19

UNSW academics have released a 3D visualisation of soap destroying the coronavirus to remind Australians that simply washing your hands can help stem the pandemic.

One-minute video: [Watch me.](#)



REMINDER!!!

Pregnancy Warning Label Will Be Mandatory

Alcoholic beverage manufacturers will now need to implement the mandatory labels on all relevant packaging within the next three years. [Read me.](#)



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BUSINESS SUPPORT

Business Support Programs and Grants

- AIP | [Packaging Training](#)
- [Asia Gateway Voucher](#)
- [Build It Better Voucher Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Expert Database](#) by Academy of Science
- CSIRO's [Industry Solutions](#)
- CSIRO's [SME Connect](#)
- EMDG | [Export Market Development Grants](#)
- [Export Tool](#)
- FIAL | [Building Healthier Foods Grants](#)
- FIAL and Mars | [Seeds of Change Accelerator](#)
- [ICN Gateway](#) and [COVID-19-Specific](#)
- [Manufacturing Academy](#)
- [National Bushfire Recovery Agency](#)
- **NSW Only:** [Circulate](#)
- Victoria Business | [Supporting Our Creative State](#)
- [Victorian Salt Reduction Innovation Grants](#)
- Yarra Valley Water: [Waste to Energy](#)

Great Websites to Learn From

- COVID-19: A Collection of Resources from [Remco Vikan](#)
- Free online training: [All about allergens](#)
- [Fresh Produce Safety Centre](#)
- [FSANZ Food Allergen Portal](#)
- [IFT Free Learning | Overcoming Clean Label Challenges](#)
- [Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group](#)
- [Sustainability Victoria: Love Food Hate Waste](#)
- [VIC Bag Ban](#)

Reading Material | Webinars

- [Disease information and advice](#)
- FSANZ [Compendium of Microbiological Criteria for Food](#)
- FSANZ [Safe Food Australia](#)

ABOUT MQA

Products

Food safety programs implemented by MQA:

- HACCP-based standards
- SQF
- Client-based standards (regrettably due to confidentiality, MQA is not permitted to publicise standards. Please feel free to contact us to discuss further)

Services

- Food safety and quality assurance support
- **GHP audits** (site inspections)
- **Internal auditing** (food safety plan reviews and verifications)
- **Label reviews**
- **PIF** version 6 (via Bizcaps. [Watch the video](#))
- **Product development** (risk assessments, recipe instructions/cards, labelling, product specifications)
- QA Manager-role

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NEWS

MQA Updates

- MQA Food Integrity Notifications has been updated to [August 2020](#)

GFSI Updates

- **SQF Edition 9.01** is to be released October 2020 with implementation expected to commence May 2021

Important News

- **Contact your energy retailer** to get help during COVID-19: If your small business is struggling with power bills as a result of COVID-19, you should reach out to your energy provider as soon as possible to get help. [Read me](#)
- **Business recovery and resilience mentoring:** The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is partnering with the Victorian Government to deliver a business mentoring program to help small businesses navigate the economic challenges posed by restrictions to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). [Read me](#)
- **AFGC PIF V6.0** – [Register for today's webinar](#) (01-09-20)
- **Stage 4 Sector Guidance** is available from business.vic.gov
- Support for Victorian **hospitality businesses:** Refer to business.vic.gov

Other News

ACCC: New Inquiry On Perishable Supply Chains

The ACCC has commenced a new three-month inquiry into bargaining power in supply chains for perishable agricultural products in Australia. [Read me.](#)

Australia's First Face Mask Testing Facility

CSIRO has opened Australia's first accredited face mask testing facility for single-use surgical face masks. [Read me.](#)

Australian Food Regulation System Reform Agenda

The Forum endorsed a plan to reform the Bi-national Food Regulation System (the System) to ensure it remains strong, robust and agile into the future, inclusive of a review of the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 (FSANZ Act) and the Intergovernmental Food Regulation Agreement. [Read me.](#)

EU Plans to Include Food Safety Culture in Regulation

The European Commission has published draft legislation that includes food safety culture. Article by [Food Safety News.](#)

First Indigenous-Led Guidelines on Knowledge Sharing

More than 100 Indigenous contributors have created Australia's first guidelines on how to best strengthen and share Indigenous knowledge in land and sea management. Article by [CSIRO.](#)

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Fresh Produce Safety Centre

Fresh Produce Safety Centre has released their 2025 innovation agenda: Review of the audit process. Find the full report [here](#) and the summary [here](#).

International Food Security Assessment

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) is out with its annual International Food Security Assessment, and it isn't pretty. And the reason things have gotten worse is the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. Article by [Food Safety News](#).

Microrecycling Science

The novel 'material microsurgery' technique can extract valuable materials and elements from complex waste items and reform them into strengthening layers for steel and other applications. [Read me](#).

MSG Instead of Salt to Reduce Sodium Intake

According to a new study, MSG can be used to significantly reduce sodium while also promoting the enjoyment of better-for-you foods like grains and vegetables. [Read me](#).

Record Number of Notifications on RASFF Portal in 2019

A record high of more than 4,000 notifications were exchanged via the RASFF portal in 2019. Article by [Food Safety News](#).

Recycling Labels

An independent national audit had revealed that recycling information on consumer products and packaging is confusing for consumers and does not support better recycling. [Read me](#).

Researchers Assess Raw Milk Quality in England

Public Health England researchers have looked at the microbiological quality of raw drinking milk and unpasteurized dairy products over a six-year period. Article by [Food Safety News](#).

Seafood Industry to Utilise New Technology in Fight Against Food Fraud

New technology will be used to detect Australian-grown seafood and stop food fraud. [ABC News](#).

USA: Packaged Salads Linked to Illness Outbreak

The US FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified the outbreak caused by parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. [Read me](#).

Wellbeing and Mental Health Support for Victorian Small Businesses: Refer to business.vic.gov

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