



Edition 52 – January 2021

MQA Newsletter

Welcome to the Melbourne Quality Assurance newsletter.



Allergen labelling errors: call for stricter packaging rules

Dr Giovanni Zurzolo, a research fellow in the Allergy and Lung Health Unit at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and a Murdoch Children's Research Institute honorary fellow, investigates food labelling and cross-contact issues. Read me [here](#) and [here](#).

RECALL ALERT

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

- Incorrect Packaging Resulting in Undeclared Allergens | [Steggles Frozen Turkey Breast Roast](#)
- Potential Presence of an Undeclared Allergen | [Naderi Traditional Cookie](#)
- Potential Presence of an Undeclared Allergen (Peanut) | [Coles Nut Butter](#)
- Potential Presence of an Undeclared Allergen (Peanut) | [Woolworths Nut Butter](#)
- Incorrect Packaging Resulting in Undeclared Allergen (Milk) | [Simply Tasty Chicken Parmigiana](#)
- Potential Microbial Contamination (Not Stated) | [Woolworths Cocktail Prawns](#)
- Potential Microbial Contamination (Mycotoxin – Patulin) | [nudie nothing but 2 apples](#)



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

FSANZ has completed an administrative assessment and accepted the following:

- **A1216** Food derived from herbicide-tolerant canola line MON94100:
- **P1056** Caffeine Review

FSANZ has called for comment/submissions on the following:

- **A1206** Subtilisin from GM *Bacillus licheniformis* as a processing aid (enzyme)

FSANZ has approved variations from the following:

- **A1175** Rapeseed protein isolate as a novel food
- **A1180** Natural Glycolipids as a preservative in non-alcoholic beverages
- **A1186** Soy Leghemoglobin in meat analogue products
- **A1198** Food derived from enhanced yield & glufosinate-tolerant corn line DP202216
- **P1044** Plain English Allergen Labelling
- **P1054** Pure and highly concentrated caffeine products (Amendment Report)

Other FSANZ News

- Amendment No. **196** to the FSANZ Code
- Targeted Consultation Survey: [Participate in the survey](#)

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CALENDAR

- [GFSI Conference](#) | Singapore/Online | 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
- [Food Safety, Risk and Compliance Conference](#) | Auckland | 16-17 March 2021
- [National CleanTech Conference](#) | Brisbane | 22-23 March 2021
- [GFSI Conference](#) | Online | 23-25 March 2021
- [Mega Trans \(Logistics\)](#) | Melbourne | April 2021
- [Food Allergy Forum](#) | Online | 19-21 April 2021
- [Food Allergen Management Symposium](#) | Online | 18-21 May 2021
- [National Manufacturing Week](#) | Melbourne | 11-14 May
- [Food Allergy Week](#) | Online | May 2021
- [Food Allergen Management Symposium](#) | Online | 18-21 May 2021
- [Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference](#) | Melbourne | 24-27 May 2021
- [World Food Safety Day](#) | Global | 7 June 2021
- [Hort Connections](#) | Brisbane | 7-9 June 2021
- [Sustainable Food Summit](#) | Amsterdam | 9-11 June
- [Free From \(Allergy\) Show](#) | Melbourne | 16-18 July
- [Food Pro Exhibition](#) | Sydney | 25-28 July 2021
- AIFST (**website TBA**) | Sydney | 26-27 July
- Fresh Produce Safety Conference | **TBA** | August 2021
- [ASCIA Conference](#) | Melbourne | 1-3 September 2021

CONSUMER TIPS

Pet Food and Human Health

There have been numerous pet food recalls around the world, in particularly from USA and Canada. Ensure you know the risks of both processed and raw pet food. [Read more.](#)



Why Food Allergies Are on the Rise

Food allergies can be extremely risky, even fatal – and they're on the rise around the world. Why are they increasingly common, and what can we do to prevent them?

[Article by BBC.](#)



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BUSINESS SUPPORT

Business Support Programs and Grants

- AIP | [Packaging Training](#)
- **** NEW**** Aus. Gov. | [Community Grants Hub](#)
- [Build It Better Voucher Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Expert Database](#) by Academy of Science
- **** NEW**** CSIRO [Kick-Start](#)
- CSIRO's [Industry Solutions](#)
- CSIRO's [SME Connect](#)
- EMDG | [Export Market Development Grants](#)
- [Export Tool](#)
- FIAL and Mars | [Seeds of Change Accelerator](#)
- [ICN Gateway](#)
- [Manufacturing Academy](#)
- [National Bushfire Recovery Agency](#)
- **NSW Only:** [Circulate](#)
- **** NEW** NSW Only:** [Export Assistance Grant](#)
- [Victorian Salt Reduction Innovation Grants](#)
- Yarra Valley Water: [Waste to Energy](#)
- **** NEW**** Aus. Gov. | [Grants and Programs](#)

Reading Material | Webinars

- CSIRO: [COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience](#)
- [Disease information and advice](#)
- FSANZ [Compendium of Microbiological Criteria for Food](#)
- FSANZ [Safe Food Australia](#)
- GFSI: [Food Safety Culture](#)
- OECD | [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#)

Great Websites to Learn From

- Allergen Bureau | [Risk Review](#)
- [Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia](#)
- [Buy Recycled Directory](#)
- 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](#)
- [Pest Smart](#)
- RRIF | [Rapid Research Information Forum](#)
- [Sustainability Victoria: Love Food Hate Waste](#)
- [VIC Bag Ban](#)
- [Waste Management Review Magazine](#)

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NEWS

MQA Updates

- **MQA Updates:** MQA Food Integrity Notifications has been updated to [December 2020](#)

GFSI Updates

- Reminder that the GFSI Conference is going virtual on 02-04 March. [Read me](#)

Important News

Fair Work Ombudsman

Updates to casual and overtime clauses in most awards (as announced 30-10-20). Please ensure you update your payroll systems to include casual and overtime clauses. [Awards affected](#). Read the [decision](#).

Food Safety Governance for Directors

Directors and boards, senior executives, and business owners in the wider food industry are invited to attend our Food Safety Governance for Directors course. [Read me](#).

Food and Grocery Code of Conduct

On 3 October 2020, changes were made to the Food and Grocery Code. The ACCC guidance provides suppliers with information about their rights under the amended Code and relevant competition and consumer laws. [Read me](#).

Other News

Decontamination of Tree Nuts

Researchers have developed a process to kill germs on almonds and nuts by using compressed carbon dioxide to decontaminate food. From [Food Safety News](#).

Food Safety Culture

FSANZ has been talking about it for years. [Dairy Food Safety Victoria](#) has been talking about it. Now, [PrimeSafe](#) has jumped on board for food safety culture within the workplace.

Guidelines Issued for Listeria in Frozen Vegetables After Outbreak

Hygiene guidelines for controlling Listeria monocytogenes during production of frozen vegetables have been published. [Read me](#).

Listeria Infections Investigated in New Zealand

Officials in New Zealand are investigating six Listeria infections spread over four years that appear to be connected. From [Food Safety News](#).

iDSnet Cloud

Matthews Australasia has released [iDSnet](#) is a centralised database that stores label formats for TUN, SSCC and WOW Fresh Produce Labels as well as product, batch, packer and grower information.

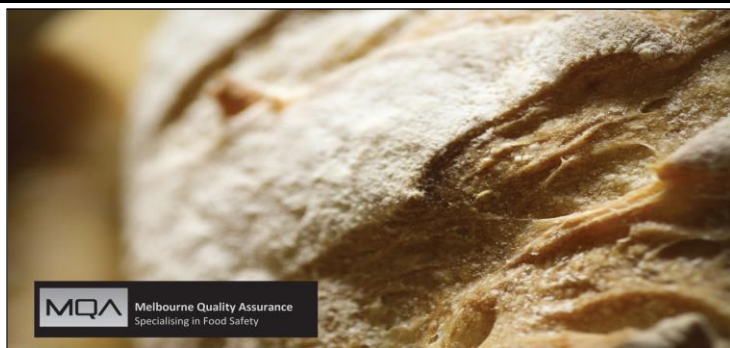
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New Disaster Resilience for Business Toolkit

Did you know that preparation for dealing with crises is the same regardless of what the disaster or incident is? Check out the updated toolkit from business.gov.

Ten Ways to Succeed in Australian Manufacturing

AMGC has released, free to the public, their webinars on how to succeed in Australian manufacturing. This information is worth your time to review as part of your business continuous improvement. [Visit the website](#).

Skills Impact

- New projects underway include [Crops, Pastures and Seed Project](#) and [Dairy and Milk Harvesting Project](#)
- **Specialist Meat Processing Skills Standards** have been [published](#)
- **Halal Meat Processing** Project. Stage: [Finalisation](#)
- **Poultry Processing** Project. Stage: [Finalisation](#)
- **Diploma & Advanced Diploma in Meat Processing** Project. Stage: [Finalisation](#)

Wage Subsidies for New Trainees

The Government announced a new wage subsidy as part of its \$1.2 billion Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements initiative. Information [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

ABOUT MQA

Products

Food safety programs implemented by MQA:

- HACCP-based standards
- SQF
- Client-based standards (regretfully 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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