



Edition 53 – February 2021

MQA Newsletter

Welcome to the Melbourne Quality Assurance newsletter.



Conducting an Internal Audit? Avoid These 6 Common Mistakes.

While internal audits may not appear too difficult at first glance, if an auditor is inexperienced or unqualified, it can be easy to overlook key non-conformances and miss out on the significant return on investment of well-designed internal audits. [Read me.](#)

RECALL ALERT

Media released food recalls of **January 2021**:

- Potential Physical Contamination (Glass) | [Cocktail Onions](#)
- Undeclared Allergen (Gluten) | [El Cielo White Corn Tortillas](#)
- Microbial Contamination (Listeria) | [Bellarine Smokehouse Pâtés](#)
- Potential Microbial Contamination (Salmonella) | [Woolworths Coleslaw](#)
- Undeclared Allergen (Egg) | Wang Korea Sweet Rice Pancake ([Original](#) and [Green Tea](#))
- Microbial Contamination (Listeria Monocytogenes) | [O'Brien's Leg Ham](#)



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

FSANZ has completed an administrative assessment and accepted the following:

- [A1218](#) β -Galactosidase from Bacillus subtilis (Enzyme)
- [A1219](#) Alpha-amylase from GM Bacillus licheniformis as PA (Enzyme)
- [A1220](#) Beta-amylase from Bacillus licheniformis
- [A1221](#) Phospholipase A1 from Aspergillus niger

FSANZ has called for comment/submissions on the following:

- [A1216](#) GM Food derived from herbicide-tolerant canola line MON94100 Genetically modified foods. Submissions close: 6pm (Canberra time) 01 March 2021
- [A1210](#) Maltogenic alpha amylase enzyme from GM Saccharomyces cerevisiae: To permit a new source microorganism, being a genetically modified Saccharomyces cerevisiae, for the permitted enzyme, maltogenic alpha amylase. Submissions close: 6pm (Canberra time) 10 March 2021

The following application has been withdrawn by the Applicant:

- [A576](#) Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with a Pregnancy Health Advisory Label

Melbourne Quality Assurance

ABN 72 166 354 050
PO Box 308, FAIRFIELD VIC 3078 AUSTRALIA
info@melbourneqa.com or www.melbourneqa.com
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CALENDAR

- [Codex HACCP Update](#) | Webinar | 04 February
- [Annual NZOZ Sensory and Consumer Science Symposium](#) | Virtual | 09-11 February
- [Allergen management insights and industry guidance](#) | Webinar | 16 February
- [FIAL: Virtual meet the buyer: Asia Region](#) | Virtual | 25 February
- [GFSI Conference](#) | Singapore and Online | 2-5 March
- [FHA Food and Beverage](#) | Singapore | 2-5 March
- [FoodTech Japan](#) | Japan | 9-12 March
- [Sustainable Foods Summit](#) | Singapore | 15-16 March
- [Food Safety, Risk and Compliance Conference](#) | Auckland | 16-17 March
- [National CleanTech Conference](#) | Brisbane | 22-23 March
- [GFSI Conference](#) | Online | 23-25 March
- [Mega Trans \(Logistics\)](#) | Melbourne | April
- [Food Allergy Forum](#) | Online | 19-21 April
- [Food Allergen Management Symposium](#) | Online | 18-21 May
- [National Manufacturing Week](#) | Melbourne | 11-14 May
- [Food Allergy Week](#) | Online | May
- [Food Allergen Management Symposium](#) | Online | 18-21 May
- [Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference](#) | Melbourne | 24-27 May
- [World Food Safety Day](#) | Global | 7 June

CONSUMER TIPS

More than 100 reasons to quit tobacco

Quitting can be challenging, especially with the added social and economic stress that have come as a result of the pandemic, but there are a lot of reasons to quit. [Read me from WHO.](#)



Subscribe to COVID-19 Vaccines Update

The COVID-19 vaccines update will provide the latest information on the Government's work to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for Australia.



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BUSINESS SUPPORT

Business Support Programs and Grants

- AIP | [Packaging Training](#)
- Aus. Gov. | [Community Grants Hub](#)
- [Build It Better Voucher Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Expert Database](#) by Academy of Science
- 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](#)
- **NSW Only:** [Export Assistance Grant](#)
- [Victorian Salt Reduction Innovation Grants](#)
- Yarra Valley Water: [Waste to Energy](#)
- 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 [January 2021](#)
- MQA has commenced research and development into the following management systems for the food industry:
 - Sustainability
 - APCO | Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets
- If you are interested in becoming involved or would like MQA to include your business with the latest updates, please get in contact with us: Janette Hughes | 0466 377 371 | janette@melbourneqa.com

GFSI Updates

- GFSI: Reminder that the GFSI Conference is going virtual on 02-04 March 2021. [Read me](#)
- GFSI has launched its all-new GFSI Podcast Series. [Subscribe to the podcasts](#)
- SQF: To assist with the edition 09 updates, SQFI has released free webinars: [Ask Us Anything](#)

Important News

Changes to Food Allergen Labelling Likely for Mid-Feb

Initially proposed in 2018, The Plain English Allergen Labelling (PEAL) seeks to make allergen labelling more transparent and consistent on Australian food packaging. Read the [FSANZ Proposal](#). [Read me](#) and [me](#).

Other News

AFGC PIF Resources

The AFGC has ceased supporting the V5 PIF, and it has not been updated since 2012. The AFGC recommends that it should no longer be used. [Read me](#). Also, if you are already using PIF V6, [participate in the AFGC survey](#).

Determining Previously Frozen Salmon

Norwegian researchers have developed a method to look at certain metabolites, which change concentration when Atlantic salmon is frozen and thawed, then stored chilled. [Read me](#).

England Considering Gene Editing for Food

A comment period has been launched in England regarding gene editing of crops and livestock. By [Food Safety News](#).

FSAI Flags Food Safety Research Priorities

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) has identified emerging food safety risks, food chain vulnerability assessments and fresh produce traceability as areas for research. By [Food Safety News](#).

Global Foodsource Identifier (GFI)

Researchers have developed a restricted-access system designed to assist those involved in investigating foodborne illness outbreaks. Read from [Food Safety News](#) and [Science Direct](#).

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How to Communicate Allergen Information on Food Labels

Netherlands researchers have assessed the effectiveness of allergen labels as a form of communication. This new perspective has resulted in several recommendations for improving how allergen information is presented on food labels.

[Read me.](#)

Pork Trade Threatened for Sixth Year by African Swine Fever

The disease is endemic in most South-Saharan African countries and active in Asia and Europe. Not yet identified in Australia. Article and statistical data from [Food Safety News](#).

Remote Auditing: An ISO 9001 Auditor's Perspective

Auditors and auditees had to transition from the traditional on-site audit experience to a remote one. [Read me.](#)

Research: Toxins Created by Microalgae

A project looking at the risk of ciguatera poisoning in Europe has finished work after almost five years. By [Food Safety News](#).

Researchers Assess Impact of COVID-19 Measures on Foodborne Infections

Diseases including foodborne infections declined after public health measures were introduced because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a preliminary analysis in Australia. [Read me.](#)

Study Using Spectroscopy to Detect Oregano Adulteration

This study is the first interlaboratory trial to compare the performance of low-cost portable NIR devices coupled to chemometrics to detect adulterated food. [Read me.](#)

Unexpected Allergens

The Allergen Bureau has launched the updated Unexpected Allergens in Food (2021) guidance document. This was last updated 2011, so please [download your updated copy](#).

WHO and FAO look at Trichinella and Taenia Saginata in Meat

Experts have helped develop risk-based approaches to control two parasites in meat, requiring the re-evaluation of traditional practices and the assessment of regulatory and industry resources. [Read me.](#)

COVID-19 Immunity Appears to Last 6 to 8 Months

A NIAID-funded study suggests that most people who recover from COVID-19 develop immune memory that lasts for at least six to eight months. [Read me.](#)

Skills Impact

- Flour Milling Project: [Validation Stage](#)
- Food & Beverage Processing Project: [Validation Stage](#)
- High Volume Production Baking Project: [Validation Stage](#)

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APCO Reveals State of Packaging in Australia

APCO has published a report that tracks Australia's progress towards the 2025 National Packaging Targets. [Read me.](#)

Plan Launched to Reduce Risk of Emerging Zoonoses

A drive to prevent emerging zoonotic risks and diseases such as COVID-19 has been unveiled and is being led by France. [Read me.](#)

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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