



Edition 58 – July 2021

# MQA Newsletter

Welcome to the Melbourne Quality Assurance newsletter.



## Washing Our Hands

Our hands come into contact with other objects more than any other part of our body. We are touching things from the moment we wake up until we fall asleep at night without a thought on what diseases we may come into contact with from hundreds of different items such as door handles, money, keyboards, rails, phones, and even the seats we use on public transport. [Read me.](#)



## RECALL ALERT

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

- Potential Physical Contamination (Rubber) | [Community Co Cookies & Cream Ice Cream](#)
- Undeclared Allergen (Milk) | [Eat Real Corn Puffs](#)
- Undeclared Allergen (Cashew) | [Green Curry Kale Chips](#)
- Undeclared Allergen (Gluten) | [Raspberry Brownie](#)
- Physical Contamination (Glass) | [Meraki Shiraz 2020](#)

## Melbourne Quality Assurance

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 **FOOD STANDARDS**  
Australia New Zealand  
Te Mana Kounga Kai – Ahitereiria me Aotearoa



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

FSANZ has called for comment/submissions on the following:

- **P1030** Composition and Labelling of Electrolyte Drinks Consultation Paper. Submissions close: 6pm (Canberra time) 9 July 2021
- **A1222** Steviol glycosides from *Yarrowia lipolytica*. Submissions close: 6pm (Canberra time) 22 July '21

FSANZ has approved variations from the following:

- **A1210** Maltogenic alpha amylase enzyme from *Glycomyces cerevisiae*
- **M1018** Maximum Residue Limits (2020)

FSANZ has completed assessments for the following:

- **P1056** Caffeine review: Review of permissions for caffeine in sports foods and general foods and consideration of the risk it poses to sensitive sub-populations
- **A1226** Food derived from insect-protected corn line MON95379: To seek approval for the sale and use of food derived from genetically modified corn (maize) line MON95379

## Other FSANZ News

- **Amendment No. 200** to the FSANZ Code was published by FSANZ on 03-06-21. It included amendments resulting from **A1204** and **P1051**

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## CALENDAR

- [Free From \(Allergy\) Show](#) | Melbourne | 16-18 July  
**(MQA to attend)**
- [Food Pro Exhibition](#) | Sydney | 25-28 July
- [AIFST Conference](#) | Sydney | 26-27 July  
**(MQA to attend online only)**
- [Fresh Produce Safety Conference](#) | Sydney and virtual | 18 August **(MQA to attend online only)**
- [Waste and Recycling Expo](#) | Sydney | 25-26 August
- [ASCIA Conference](#) | Melbourne | 1-3 September
- [Free From \(Allergy\) Show](#) | Sydney | 17-19 September
- [National Farmers' Federation National Conference](#) | Canberra | 28-29 September
- [SQF Conference](#) | USA | 27-29 October
- [Evoke Ag](#) | Perth | 15-16 February 2022
- [AUSPACK 2021](#) | Melbourne | May 2022

## CONSUMER TIPS

### [Anaphylaxis Resources](#)

National Allergy Strategy has released new videos.

A new animation explaining how to position a person having anaphylaxis, including when giving the adrenaline injector, has been developed. This two minute animation explains why it is important that a person does not stand or walk when they are experiencing anaphylaxis. [Watch me.](#) [Watch other videos.](#)



### [Farmers in Open Gate Conversation](#)

A newly launched online interactive hub, Open Gate Conversations allows people to ask any questions they may have about farm practice and management, and a Victorian farmer will answer with examples straight from the paddock.

[Check me out.](#)



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## BUSINESS SUPPORT

### Business Support Programs and Grants

- AIP | [Packaging Training](#)
- Aus. Gov. | [Community Grants Hub](#)
- [Build It Better Voucher Program](#)
- [Business Competitiveness Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Expert Database](#) by Academy of Science
- CSIRO [Kick-Start](#)
- CSIRO [Industry Solutions](#)
- CSIRO [SME Connect](#)
- EMDG | [Export Market Development Grants](#)
- FIAL and Mars | [Seeds of Change Accelerator](#)
- [Modern Manufacturing Strategy](#)
- [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](#)

- Food Fraud: [A Global Threat with Public Health and Economic Consequences](#)
- GFSI: [Food Safety Culture](#)
- OECD | [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#)

### Great Websites to Learn From

- [Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia](#)
- [Buy Recycled Directory](#)
- [Fresh Produce Safety Centre](#)
- [Food Authenticity](#)
- FSANZ [Food Allergen Portal](#)
- [IFT Free Learning | Overcoming Clean Label Challenges](#)
- [Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group](#)
- [Pest Smart](#)
- RRIF | [Rapid Research Information Forum](#)
- [VIC Bag Ban](#)
- [Waste Management Review Magazine](#)

### \*\*\* New \*\*\*

- Australian Academy of Science | [COVID-19 Facts](#)
- Business Victoria | [Tools and Templates](#)
- Business Victoria | [Upskill My Business](#)

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## NEWS

### MQA Updates

**MQA Updates:** MQA Food Integrity Notifications has been updated to [June 2021](#).

### GFSI Updates

- GFSI has launched new stakeholder consultation on Primary Scopes and Service Provision Scope of the benchmarking requirements. [Read me](#)
- GFSI is accepting applications to join their [Steering Committee](#)
- GFSI establishes [Science and Technology Advisory Group](#) to provide GFSI with an expert independent outlook on any science and technology developments that may impact GFSI's food safety activities

### Important News

- AFGC and Allergen Bureau have updated their guide: Food Industry Guide to Allergen Management and Labelling. [Download me](#)
- Circuit breaker business support packages: [Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two](#)

### News Food: Safety and Quality

#### **E. coli Infections Often More Severe in Adults**

STEC-associated hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is rarer in adults than children but causes more severe disease and death in older people, according to a study. By [Food Safety News](#).

#### **Genes in Chickens That May Resistance to Harmful Bacteria**

A study has identified genes in chickens that could offer resistance to harmful bacteria commonly found in poultry and could inform ways to limit the risk of associated food poisoning in people. [Read me](#).

#### **PrimeSafe Online Portal**

PrimeSafe licences are moving online, with PrimeSafe launching an online Licence Portal. Refer to their [website](#) for further information.

#### **PrimeSafe: Harvesting Kangaroo for Human Consumption**

From 28 January 2021, kangaroo can be harvested in Victoria for human consumption, provided it is processed at PrimeSafe licensed game meat processing facility. Refer to their [website](#) for further information.

#### **Produce: FDA Report on Animal Operations Near Produce**

In a new report, the FDA continues to express concerns about farm animal operations close by and adjacent to produce growing fields, specifically peach orchards this time. Article by [Food Safety News](#).

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## Salmonella Serotype Vaccine

Scientists in Switzerland created the Salmonella vaccine that guides the evolution of intestinal bacteria in the gut to make them a weaker pathogen instead of trying to kill them. Article by [Food Safety News](#).

## Study Uncovers Many Strains of Pathogenic E. Coli in German Flour

Researchers have found a wide distribution and high diversity of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) in German flour. By [Food Safety News](#).

## Titanium Dioxide

EFSA has concluded that titanium dioxide can no longer be considered safe when used as an additive in animal feed. Article by [EFSA Europe](#).

## News: Occupational Health and Safety

### COVID Guidance on PPE for Health Workers

Guidance on the use of PPE | Personal Protective Equipment for health care workers in the context of COVID-19 has been (finally) released. [Read me](#).

## News: Human Resources

### Minimum Wage to Increase by 2.5%

Following the Annual Wage Review 2021, the Fair Work Commission has announced a 2.5% increase to minimum wages. This will also apply to all award wages, with the award increase happening in 3 different stages. For further information, refer to [Annual Wage Review 2021](#). Please remember, some award updates commenced [1<sup>st</sup> July 2021](#)

## Skills Impact

- Dairy and Milk Harvesting Project: [Validation Stage](#)
- [Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industry](#): Skills Impact have three new proposed schedules for the coming year: Indigenous Food Skills, Pharmaceutical GMP, Sugar Milling
- Meat Processing: Skills Impact shall commence a full review of the [AMP Australian Meat Processing Training Package](#)

## News: Operations/Business Continuity

### ACCC Will Not Oppose Woolworths Acquiring 65% Share of PFD

The ACCC will not oppose Woolworths' acquisition of 65% of the shares in wholesale food distributor PFD Food Services, following a detailed investigation that found the transaction is not likely to substantially lessen competition. News from [ACCC](#).

## Collective Bargaining

Small businesses, franchisees and fuel retailers can use the ACCC's class exemption for collective bargaining. This class exemption, which is the first made by the ACCC, will allow collective negotiation without first having to seek ACCC approval. News from [ACCC](#).

## New Law on Motor Vehicle Service

The ACCC welcomes legislative changes which will increase competition and choice for consumers about where they have their cars serviced and repaired. News from [ACCC](#).

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## Senate to Investigate 'Fake Meat' Labelling Laws

Should a sausage be called a sausage if it is not made out of meat? Is a burger a burger without the beef? These are questions a Senate inquiry is set to investigate as it probes the labelling of non-animal proteins across the meat and dairy industries. Article by [ABC News](#).

## Small Business Electricity Costs

ACCC has developed a factsheet in response to their inquiry into the National Electricity Market and have identified that small businesses can save up to \$349 annually on their electricity bill. [Read me](#).

## News: Sustainability and Global Health

### CSIRO Launch Hydrogen Industry Mission

A new Hydrogen Industry Mission by CSIRO will help support the world's transition to clean energy, create new jobs and boost the economy. Hydrogen, when mixed with oxygen, can be used as an emissions-free fuel source to generate electricity, power or heat. [Read me](#).

## Livestock Production Efficiency Mitigates Methane Emissions

An international team of researchers examining global livestock methane emissions has found that, over the past two decades, the emission intensity per unit of animal protein produced from the livestock production sector has decreased due to greater production efficiency. [Read me](#).

## NIH Launches Clinical Trial of Universal Influenza Vaccine Candidate

A first-in-human, Phase 1 trial assessing the safety and immunogenicity of an investigational nanoparticle influenza vaccine designed to provide long-lasting protection against multiple flu virus strains has begun. [Read me](#).

## PIDA Winners Announcement

The food packaging design of the year winners have been announced. Watch the [five-minute video](#).

## Public Consultation: Best Practice Guide for Serving Sizes

The [Australian Healthy Food Partnership](#) is undertaking public consultation to inform the development of a voluntary Best Practice Guide for Industry (in Australia), including serving size recommendations for selected food categories. The Best Practice Guide is applicable to retail and out-of-home products. [Read the consultation](#).

## Wastewater Foam

Researchers have discovered a way to kill a bacterium that causes foaming in wastewater treatment facilities. The strategy could pave the way to solving a costly and hazardous problem encountered by wastewater treatment plants globally. [Read me](#).

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## Workplace Waste Generation Underestimated

Contrary to what half of Australians believe, households do not create more waste than the business sector, reveals new research commissioned by Planet Ark. News by [Sustainability Matters](#).

## Victoria Launches Solar Technology Strategy

The Victorian Government has released a landmark technology strategy for Solar Victoria — the agency delivering the state's \$1.3 billion Solar Homes Program. From [Sustainability Matters](#).

## ABOUT MQA

### Products

Food safety programs implemented by MQA:

- HACCP-based standards
- SQF
- Client-based standards (regretfully due to confidentially, 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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