

Country hot topics

Draft

Australia and New Zealand On 25 February 2021 the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) was amended to introduce new requirements for the labelling of allergens in food.

These requirements include that allergen information is to be declared (1) in a specific format and location on food labels, and (2) using simple, plain English terms in bold font.

Businesses have 3 years to implement the new requirements. During this transition period, food businesses can comply with either the existing allergen declaration requirements in the Code, or the new requirements.

A 2 year stock-in-trade period will follow the transition period. Any food packaged and labelled with existing allergen declarations before the end of the transition period may be sold for up to 2 years after the end of the transition period.

South Africa South Africa is adopting new laws that demand that manufacturers must recover and recycle products sold to consumers. According to the new rules manufacturers, importers and brand owners must take responsibility to ensure that much of their products are returned (and recycled) after being sold and used.

CBD products are now legal, but there are limitations on the market imposed by the Department of Health. Its default classification is as a prescription only medication, except when in pack sizes containing 600mg or less of CBD and limited to maximum dose of 20mg/day.

China New draft labelling legislation that when enforced will have a significant impact on food business. Proposed changes include:

- Making allergen labelling mandatory - currently this is voluntary.
- Over-stickring no longer acceptable.
- Nutritional labelling changes, including sugar added to the nutrition panel.

Singapore Changes to labelling of pre-packaged food products are currently being discussed which would add labelling requirements for products sold via e-commerce.

India New requirements of 1st March 2021 for all imported food products to be accompanied by a certification for GM or no GM presence. The current tolerance limit for adventitious presence (AP) of GMOs at 1% is permissible in imported food crop consignments.

Taiwan Taiwan has amended the "Microbiological Sanitation Standard for Foods". Ten food categories in the current version have been changed to seven categories including packaged drinking water and beverages. Some indicator bacteria have been added to the amended Standard. The amended Sanitation Standard will come into force on 1st July 2021.

GCC New measures being discussed to apply restrictions on the content of palm oil, salt/sodium, sugar in food that would lead to healthier eating habits in the region.

UAE Plans to make Front-of-pack traffic light labelling mandatory by 2022.

USA A new law requires food manufacturers to declare "sesame" as a major food allergen on packaging and labeling. Food companies have until 1st Jan 2023 to comply.

Canada Edible cannabis is permitted in food under the Cannabis Act of 2018, as amended.

Argentina Draft law has been published calling for the introduction of front of pack labelling. The proposed law also aims to restrict the marketing of unhealthy food and drink.

Chile, Uruguay and Peru Black and white octagonal warning labels are mandatory.

Brazil New Labeling Regulation approved in Brazil for pre-packed food products that are expected to enter into force in 2022. Under the new regulation, the nutritional labeling must be placed on the front panel of packaged foods using simple and clear icons to emphasize high contents of saturated fat, added sugar, and sodium.

Russia Russia's ban on import into the territory of the Russian Federation of certain agricultural products, raw materials and foodstuffs originating from certain countries has been extended until the end of 2021.

Israel New regulations requiring labeling for food products containing certain sweeteners entered into force on 1 January 2021.

- New regulations requiring front of pack labeling entered into force on 1 January 2020.