



16 January 2023

(23-0377)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1. Notifying Member: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Email: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Standards New Zealand Ph +64 4 498 5990 wto@standards.co.nz www.standards.govt.nz
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], 3.2 [], 7.2 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Imported and domestically produced packaged alcoholic beverages (HS Chapter 22) containing 0.5% or more alcohol by volume (ABV) that are required to bear a label for sale in Australia and New Zealand.
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Proposal P1059 Energy labelling on alcoholic beverages: Assessment Report; (69 page(s), in English)
6. Description of content: The proposal considers amending the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to require energy (kilojoule/kilocalorie) labelling information on packaged alcoholic beverages containing 0.5% or more ABV sold in Australia and New Zealand. FSANZ has undertaken an assessment and developed a proposed draft variation to the Code. Standards affected are: (a) Standard 1.1.2 Definitions used throughout the Code; (b) Standard 1.2.1 Requirements to have labels or otherwise provide information, and; (c) Standard 2.7.1 Labelling of alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol. The proposed draft variation requires a declaration of energy content information in a prescribed format on packaged alcoholic beverages containing 0.5% or more ABV. The location of the declaration is not prescribed. A three year transition period and a stock-in-trade exemption for products packaged and labelled before the end of the transition period is proposed.

7.	<p>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Despite public health efforts, the prevalence of overweight and obesity in Australian and New Zealand populations continues to increase. Energy balance is fundamental for maintaining a healthy body weight and reducing the risk of chronic disease related to overweight and obesity. The Australian and New Zealand Dietary Guidelines recommend avoiding excessive alcohol intake to support achieving energy balance.</p> <p>Alcoholic beverages containing 0.5% or more ABV are currently exempt from the requirement to be labelled with nutrition information that applies to most other packaged foods in Australia and New Zealand. Available evidence indicates consumers generally have a poor understanding of the energy content of alcoholic beverages.</p> <p>The objective of the proposed labelling is to provide energy content information on alcoholic beverages to enable consumers to make informed choices in line with Dietary Guidelines, which in turn can contribute to broader public health efforts to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity.</p> <p>This proposal follows two stages of preliminary work, including an evidence assessment, a consumer literature review and meta-analysis and an analysis of options for energy labelling on alcoholic beverages, completed by FSANZ in December 2021. Reports are available on the FSANZ website.; Consumer information, labelling; Protection of human health or safety</p>
8.	<p>Relevant documents:</p> <p>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (English)</p> <p>Available at https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx</p>
9.	<p>Proposed date of adoption: Notification to Australian and New Zealand Government anticipated June 2023 with adoption (gazettal) to follow shortly after, pending Government consideration.</p> <p>Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined Mid-late 2026, after a three-year transition period.</p>
10.	<p>Final date for comments: 60 days from notification</p>
11.	<p>Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:</p> <p>The assessment summary and proposed draft variation to the Code are available (in English) from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website: https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/Proposal-P1059---Energy-labelling-on-alcoholic-beverages.aspx Email: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au</p>