



Your trusted source for regulatory changes and trends, globally.

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UK

• CBD PRODUCTS

- ▶ The FSA has published a provisional list of CBD products that can remain on the market in England and Wales because an application for safety assessment has been submitted to the FSA. There are twenty-two novel food applications from three applicants on the initial list. The FSA's deadline for applications passed on 31st March. The full novel foods authorisation process is expected to last at least a year before a final decision is taken.
- ▶ Trading Standards UK and The Association for the Cannabinoid industry announce a partnership that aims to offer support to businesses selling CBD related products, helping them remain inside the lines of the law.

Read the article [here](#).

- ▶ **IRELAND:** As Northern Ireland continues to be governed by EU food law, any novel foods applications initiated with the GB government will not enable CBD products to be sold in NI. These products must comply with EU novel food processes to permit sale in EU and NI markets.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **HEALTH CLAIMS**

The ASA upheld a complaint on an ad run by Not Guilty Food Co Ltd where a range of products was described as 'Skinny Spices' which the company had registered as a trademark. The ASA concluded that 'skinny' was an incorrectly used health claim.

- **CHECKING OF USE BY DATES**

A FSA survey showed that 50% of adults do not always check the use-by date on food. This is a large number with many saying they use use-by dates as guidance, and over three quarters said they had knowingly eaten food past its use-by date. The FSA's chief scientific advisor expressed concern over the survey's findings.

- **PUBLIC ATTITUDE TO FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD RELATED ISSUES**

The FSA published its first 'Food and You 2' survey report looking at the public's self-reported knowledge, attitudes and behaviours regarding food safety and other food-related issues. In short, over 90% reported that they had confidence that the food they buy is safe to eat with over three quarters saying they had confidence in the food supply chain.

- **LOW AND NO ALCOHOL PRODUCTS**

The Wine & Spirits Trade Association (WSTA) published a guide on the labelling of no and low alcohol products designed as spirit drink substitutes. This provides a helpful reference on a growing product area.

See the guidance [here](#).

- **DEFRA LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON CROP GENE EDITING**

Under retained EU law, this is regulated the same way as genetically modified organisms (GMOs). DEFRA aims to determine whether the definitions and regulatory framework surrounding GMOs need to be revised to exclude GE products. If so, a regulatory framework for GE products would need to be established, including labelling requirements.

Gene editing is considered a natural enhancement of crop as it uses existing DNA from the same species rather than DNA from different species.

Read the consultation [here](#).

EU Harmonised

- **DEFINING THE TERM 'NATURAL' CONCERNING FOOD**

Members of the European Parliament are requesting the establishment of a legal definition for the term 'natural'. Currently, no definition exists leaving both manufacturers and consumers without clarity or consistency.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY**

As part of the EC Farm to Fork strategy, regulations that support consumers in choosing sustainable products through labelling and setting mandatory criteria for sustainable food procurement are expected to be introduced by the EC over the coming years.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **HONEY ORIGIN LABELLING - A FOCUS FOR EC UNDER SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY**

Origin labelling for honey may be considered vague with statements like 'blend of EU honeys' or 'blend of non-EU honeys' considered acceptable. Under the Slovenian presidency of the EC, they hope to create more transparent origin labelling.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **AMENDMENT PROPOSAL 171 REGARDING DAIRY RELATED TERMS ON PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES**

Plant-based manufacturers have started a petition to overturn the proposal which will prevent the use of dairy related comparative claims. Additionally, in March, 34 Members of the European Parliament called for the EC to reject the amendment. The amendment is not yet finalised, the outcome of this remains uncertain.

- **EUROPEAN COMMISSION COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING 2022**

Mandatory indication laws for that will extend the categories that require country of origin labelling could roll out as soon as Q4 2022.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **FOOD SAFETY - BAN OF THE USE OF BOTANICALS THAT CONTAIN HYDROXYANTHRACENE**

Aloe vera is one of the popular botanical ingredients that contains hydroxyanthracene – a compound used for its laxative effect.

A petition has been raised to allow for more time to assess the safety of these products and prevent the precautionary ban proposed by the EC in 2020 which could remove an entire category of food supplements intended to support proper bowel function.

- **FOOD SAFETY - BOTANICAL INGREDIENTS**

EU Regulation 2021/468 adds aloe-emodin, danthron, emodin preparations from the leaf of the *Aloe* species into the prohibited list (found in 1925/2006 on the addition of vitamins, minerals and certain other substances to foods). Furthermore, it adds certain *Rhamnus*, *Cassia* and *Rheum* preparations on the restricted list under Community scrutiny with the possibility of being added to the prohibited list. These are used in food supplements.

- **PROBIOTIC LABELLING LAW**

The term probiotic is currently not supported by EU regulations, however, at a national level, nearly 30% of member states allow its use. The EC is being encouraged to create harmonised regulation to support enforcement and mutual recognition.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **HALLOUMI CHEESE – PROTECTED STATUS**

The name 'Halloumi' has been registered as a PDO giving it protected status; only halloumi produced on the island of Cyprus can now be marketed in the European Union under that name. There is a conditional ten-year transition period granted to operators established in the geographical area.

- **FOOD HYGIENE**

EU Regulation 2021/382 amends the annexes to regulation 852/2004 as regards:

- ▶ food allergen management – inclusion of equipment, conveyances and containers;
- ▶ redistribution of food (such as from retail outlets) concentrating on durability date controls; and
- ▶ establishing and maintaining a food safety culture.

All very important considerations. Much of this is a result of amended Codex documents.

- **PETFOOD ADDITIVE – ETHOXYQUIN**

EU Regulation 2021/412. The review of the suspension of ethoxyquin scheduled for 31 December 2020 has been extended by two years until 31 December 2022 to allow EFSA time to evaluate further evidence to support its continued use rather than a ban. Ethoxyquin is an important additive in petfood to prevent the oxidation of fats.

- **AMENDMENT TO FOOD SUPPLEMENTS DIRECTIVE CONCERNING COPPER**

The units by which copper is measured will be changing for the EU from µg to mg, applicable from 30 September 2022. No amendments have been announced for the UK; if alignments are not made this will become a small point of divergence.

Read the amendment [here](#).

- **FOOD LABELLING**

The EU published an inception impact assessment on a proposal for a revision of Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers. This is part of the Commission's Farm to Fork strategy. Of note:

- ▶ A proposal for a harmonised mandatory front of pack nutrition labelling;
- ▶ The setting of nutrient profiles;
- ▶ Proposing the extension of mandatory origin labelling;
- ▶ Revision of the EU rules on date marking.

Three EU Committees (ENVI, AGRI and PECH) have given their feedback as part of the regulatory process.

- **FOOD SAFETY – ETHYLENE OXIDE**

Ethylene oxide, a pesticide, is being used in an unauthorized capacity mainly in India to kill salmonella and mask contamination of sesame seeds. Rapid Alerts started to show on the EU's RASFF system in autumn 2020 with a rapid escalation with over 400 recorded in December alone. In October it was included in the EU's third countries official controls list. RASFF reporting levels in March have dropped down very considerably.

- **NOVEL FOOD – SAFETY OF VITAMIN D2 MUSHROOM POWDER**

EFSA reports that no safety concerns are raised regarding the use of the novel food in its proposed application.

Read the report [here](#).

- **NOVEL FOOD – SAFETY OF WATER EXTRACT OF PLANT STEMS**

The novel food was undergoing safety assessment for use in supplements. Due to the adverse event in human studies, the safety of the ingredients has not been established.

Read the report [here](#).

EU National

FRANCE:

- **FRANCE REVOKES NATIONAL ORIGIN LABELLING RULES FOR MILK**

The [Decision](#) of the Council of State followed lobbying notably by French Dairy giant Lactalis, claiming the national measures requiring the origin of milk ingredients to be called out were contrary to the EU Regulation on Food Information for Consumers and there was no link between the property of a food and its origin. [Decree No. 2016-1137](#) introduced an experimental period that was extended through 31 December 2021. Following the Decision, the provisions of this Decree regarding the declaration of origin for milk and milk ingredients are revoked. A news article in English is also available [here](#).

- **FRANCE SUSPENDS ENFORCEMENT OF REMOVAL OF THE “GREEN DOT” FROM PACKAGING**

The Council of State also ruled in an [Order](#) that measures to impose a penalty for use of the “Green Dot” logo on packaging from 1 April 2021, are suspended. The measures are part of the French Loi “AGEC”, the Law on Anti-Wastage and Circular Economy, which include the prohibition of the use of other logos which could be confused with the planned Sorting Info, also under development. An overview of the plans underway for application of the Law is available in French on the household packaging recycling organisation, Adelphe’s website, [here](#).

GERMANY:

- **NEW Q&A FROM ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES (ALS)**

The German enforcement authorities (ALS) have issued new opinions concerning the interpretation of food and non-food legislation.

Read the opinions from the 115th meeting held in September 2020 [here](#).

- **GERMAN FOOD CODEX REVISIONS**

1. The guidelines for fish and fish products as well as for crustaceans and molluscs and products thereof have been revised and new versions published.

Link to the guidelines for fish and fish products can be found [here](#).

Link to the guideline for crustaceans and molluscs and products thereof can be found [here](#).

2. The guidelines for soft drinks are being reviewed. The public consultation closed on 5th April 2021.

The draft can be found [here](#). Read the press release [here](#).

- **HEMP-CONTAINING FOODSTUFF**

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) recommends acute reference dose as the basis for assessing hemp-containing foodstuff.

Read the English version of the opinion [here](#). Read the German version of the opinion [here](#).

- **UPDATED MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR VITAMINS AND MINERALS**

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) updated its recommendations for maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements and fortified foods.

Read the press release in English [here](#). Read the press release in German [here](#).

- **STRICTER REGULATION OF FOOD ADVERTISING AIMED AT CHILDREN**

The Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture has urged the Central Association of the German Advertising Industry (ZAW) to further tighten the rules of conduct for food advertising aimed at children. The ZAW has now complied with this requirement and has adjusted its rules of conduct.

Read the press release [here](#).

- **AMENDMENT TO THE WINE ACT**

Better marketing opportunities for winemakers, more orientation and clarity for consumers - these are the goals of an amendment to the Wine Act, which came into force on 27th January 2021.

Read the press release [here](#).

- **TRANSPOSITION OF THE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS DIRECTIVE AND THE WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

The draft for an Act transposing the requirements under the Single-Use Plastics Directive and the Waste Framework Directive into the Packaging Act and other acts passed the Federal Cabinet on 20th January 2021. This initiated the parliamentary legislative process, in which the Bundestag and Bundesrat have to decide on the draft.

Further information can be found [here](#).

SPAIN:

- **REPORT ON THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSUMPTION OF FOOD SUPPLEMENTS CONTAINING CURCUMIN**

The Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) considers that the admissible daily intake (ADI) established by EFSA for the use of curcumin as a food additive (E 100) applies to curcumin as an ingredient in food supplement (210 mg/day in adults with a bodyweight of 70kg).

The use of food supplements containing curcumin by children under the age of 18, pregnant and lactating women is not recommended in lack of safety information.

The report can be found [here](#).

- **'NATIONAL PLAN FOR OFFICIAL CONTROL OF THE FOOD CHAIN 2021-2025' PUBLISHED**

The National Plan describes the official controls carried out in Spain by the competent authorities at a national, regional and local level, to guarantee compliance with the regulations throughout the entire food chain, from primary production to the points of sale to the final consumer.

The document can be found [here](#).

- **FIRST 'NATIONAL FOOD ALERT MANAGEMENT GUIDE' PUBLISHED.**

It is a guidance document promoting the organisation and coordinated management of the food alerts between the competent authorities and the food companies. It includes the contact points of the Autonomous Communities and the information that must be provided by the food business in case an alert needs to be reported.

The document can be found [here](#).

- **CLARITY ON 'GLUTEN-FREE' AND 'LACTOSE-FREE' FOR FOOD LABELLING**

The use of the claims 'Gluten-free' and 'Lactose-free' in food labelling and advertising is permitted if a product has been specifically processed to reduce its gluten/lactose content. In products that are naturally gluten/lactose-free, the claims may be used if similar products containing these substances exist on the market. In products which do not or are not expected to contain these should not use claims.

- **USING THE CLAIM 'FRUCTOSE-FREE' – REVIEW OF EU REGULATIONS REQUESTED**

Fructose is not part of the EU allergens list; however, some people suffer from hereditary fructose intolerance. The Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) requested a review of Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 (annex II and III) so the indication 'fructose-free' can be used on food labels to inform and protect the affected population.

- **FOOD LABELLING - SPELT WHEAT**

The Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) published a note to provide clarity and consistency for the declaration of spelt wheat on the label. It should be declared in any of the following ways: 'spelt **wheat**', '**wheat** (spelt)', '**spelt wheat**', '**wheat (spelt)**'. In any case, 'wheat' must be emphasised as it is a substance causing allergies or intolerances, listed in EU legislation.

Read the opinion [here](#).

- **OLIVE OIL: LIMITS, QUALITY, NUTRISCORE**

- ▶ A consultation was sent to the European Commission which confirmed the maximum limit of 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) in refined olive oil should be 2500 µg/kg, corresponding to the category of 'Other vegetable oils' in Regulation (EC) 1881/2006 on contaminants in foodstuffs. Read the notification in Spanish [here](#).
- ▶ Updated [draft legislation](#) approving the quality standard for olive and olive-pomace oils is open for comment. It defines new obligations for traceability and processing.
- ▶ Nutriscore algorithm does not reflect accurately the nutritional quality of olive oil so olive oil will be left out of the scope to protect its nutritional and environmental value in Spain. Read the news article [here](#).

MISCELLANEOUS

- **DENMARK INCLUDES CO2 IN ITS LATEST DIETARY GUIDELINES**

The advice takes into consideration climate-friendly eating habits. It recommends a reduced amount of meat intake per week and includes a recommendation for the intake of legumes.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **ITALY: ANIMAL WELFARE LABELLING ON DAIRY PRODUCTS**

A proposal for new labelling on dairy products that indicates the welfare of the originating animal has been proposed by multiple Not for profits in Italy. The range is from organic to intensive farming and the change, or similar, is being encouraged at an EU level to align with the ECs commitment to revise animal welfare legislation as part of the farm to fork strategy.

You can read the news article [here](#).

USA

- **FDA ISSUES UNIFORM COMPLIANCE DATE FOR FINAL FOOD LABELING REGULATIONS**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that January 1, 2024, will be the uniform compliance date for final food labelling regulations that are issued in calendar years 2021 and 2022. This action does not change existing requirements for compliance dates contained in the final rules published before January 1, 2021.

Read the update [here](#).

- **FDA RESPONSE TO BABY FOOD AND HEAVY METALS**

A lack of federal legislation of the baby food category surrounding limits of heavy metals has been highlighted as an oversight in the FDA regulatory framework. Under pressure, the FDA has issued an [action plan](#) to identify levels of contaminants in key foods.

Additionally, the [Baby Food Safety Act of 2021](#) has been introduced to congress and sets some aggressive target levels.

Read the FDA's letter to the industry [here](#). Read the news article [here](#).

- **SESAME OFFICIALLY THE NINTH MAJOR ALLERGEN IN THE USA**

President Biden has signed the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research (FASTER) Act, making sesame the ninth major allergen in the USA as defined by federal law. All packaged food will require mandatory labelling of sesame from 1 January 2023.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **CBD:**

- ▶ Reintroduction of the [HR 841 bill](#) urges the FDA to establish a regulatory framework for the use of hemp-derived CBD in dietary supplements. The legislation aims to reduce potentially harmful products from reaching consumers and to develop a trusted marketplace. Read the news article [here](#).
- ▶ California is now in the process of creating state law ([SB-235](#)) to govern the CBD industry and support growth through a proper framework of legislation and enforcement.

- **USDA ISSUES FINAL HEMP RULE**

The USDA published a final rule on January 19, 2021 that provides regulations for the production of hemp in the United States and went into effect on March 22, 2021.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **PLANT-BASED LABELLING RESTRICTIONS IN TEXAS AND NEW YORK**

Texas (Bill 316) and New York (Bill A507) are two of the more recent states to see bills introduced that seek to limit the use of dairy and meat related terms on plant-based alternatives.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **NEW ERA OF SMARTER FOOD SAFETY**

FDA outlines their new approach to food safety by leveraging technology and other tools to create a safer and more digital, traceable food system. The ultimate goal is to decrease foodborne illness.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **VANILLA FLAVOUR UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT**

A host of cases regarding claims around vanilla flavours have cropped up in court across the US. Our regulatory advisor, Marissa Theme, has [written an article](#) to help you navigate the legislation and to avoid any court action.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **DEFINITION OF FERMENTED FOODS**

The International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics commissioned a study to develop the first consensus definition for fermented foods. "Food made through desired microbial growth and enzymatic conversions of food components.

Read the full paper [here](#).

- **ACACIA GUM AS A DIETARY FIBRE ON NEW NUTRITION LABELS.**

A petition and additional scientific evidence to support the classification of acacia gum as a dietary fibre for labelling purposes have been submitted to the FDA. Until this is accepted, acacia must continue to be declared under the total carbohydrates.

Read the news article [here](#).

CANADA

- **FOOD ADDITIVES -**

- ▶ Health Canada has extended the use of certain food additives to human milk fortifier. Read the announcement [here](#).
- ▶ Health Canada issued amendment to enable the use of potassium polyaspartate in Wine. Read the announcement [here](#).
- ▶ Extend the use of Spirulina Extract as a colouring agent in certain unstandardized foods such as custard and chocolate confectionary. Rea the announcement [here](#).
- ▶ Enabling use of caramel colour in flavoured cheddar cheese under certain conditions. Read the announcement [here](#).

- **CONSULTATION - GUIDANCE FOR NOVEL FOODS REGULATIONS – PLANT BREEDING**

Health Canada is seeking feedback on two new pieces of guidance for novel food regulations focused on plant breeding. This aims to provide greater clarity regarding regulation of novel foods derived from plants, including those developed through gene editing.

Read the consultation overview [here](#).

- **PROPOSAL - HEAVY METAL MAXIMUM LEVELS IN FOODS**

- ▶ [NOP/ADP C-2021-1](#): Inorganic arsenic in rice-based foods intended for infants and young children.
- ▶ [NOP/ADP C-2021-2](#): Updating the maximum level of total arsenic in fruit juice and fruit nectar.

RUSSIA

- **NEW DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE TECHNICAL REGULATION OF CUSTOMS UNION 005/2011 'ON SAFETY OF PACKAGING'**

On April 20, 2021, a public discussion will begin in the Eurasian Economic Union of the draft amendments No. 4. The proposed changes are aimed at harmonising the provisions of the regulation with the requirements of European directives concerning the reduction of the use of plastic bags and the reduction of the impact of plastic products on the environment.

- **EAEU WILL DEVELOP TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR NICOTINE-CONTAINING PRODUCTS**

The regulations will cover nicotine-containing products that do not belong to tobacco; for example, cartridges for electronic cigarettes or vapes, liquids for their refilling, chewable and absorbable products that contain nicotine, including its more concentrated forms in the form of salts. The aim is to establish unified mandatory requirements for such products within the Union, aimed at reducing the risk to the health of citizens from their consumption.

- **THE INTERSTATE AGREEMENT PROCEDURE CONTINUES FOR THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS NO.2 TO THE TECHNICAL REGULATION OF CUSTOMS UNION 024/2011 'FAT AND OIL PRODUCTS'**

The document provides for the clarification of certain provisions of the technical regulation, including certain definitions (for example, 'fat and oil raw materials', 'fat and oil food products', 'spread', "cocoa butter improvers", 'hydrogenated refined deodorised butter (fat)', etc.); requirements for certain safety indicators of fat and oil food products; conditions and process of transportation; production processes; labelling requirements.

- **EAEU IS DISCUSSING A NEW VERSION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TECHNICAL REGULATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The revised version of the draft amendments provides for more stringent requirements for the composition of beer. In particular, the provision on the percentage of replaced malt. According to the new requirements, only 20% of the used malt in the production of beer will be allowed to be replaced with grain or its processed products. The current edition of the Technical Regulation of Eurasian Economic Union 047/2018 'On Safety of alcohol products' allows replacing up to 50% of malt with grain. The technical regulation will enter into force on January 1, 2022



- **PROPOSED MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS**

The Technical Committee for Food and Agricultural Products (TC05), subcommittee SC2 for Additives and Food contaminants has proposed the limits. The document outlines the limits of the parameters of various pesticides and the range of differences in agricultural and food products along with limits and remarks. The proposed standard will replace the existing GSO 382/2019 after coming into effect. The deadline for comments is 01/05/2021. All new draft standards for GSO can be found [here](#) (you need to register and log in to be able to download drafts).

- **DRAFT STANDARD UPDATING CAFFEINE LIMITS IN NON-ALCOHOLIC CARBONATED BEVERAGES**

The Technical Committee for Food and Agricultural Products (TC05) has issued a draft proposal to change the current maximum permissible level of caffeine in the current GSO18/2014 Non-alcoholic Carbonated Beverages. The deadline for comments is 01/06/2021.

All new draft standards for GSO can be found [here](#) (registration and log in for access is required).

- **DRAFT STANDARD UPDATING EDIBLE VEGETABLE OILS**

The proposed draft "Edible Vegetable Oils - Part2" will replace the current "GSO 2013/1754-2" after coming into effect. The Codex International Standard "CODEX-STAN 210 (Amended 2019)" has been adopted as a primary reference in preparing this standard. The deadline for comments is 27/05/2021.

All new draft standards for GSO can be found here (you need to register and log in to be able to download drafts).

- **DRAFT STANDARD EXTENDING MANDATORY HALAL CERTIFICATION**

Draft Regulations in Saudi Arabia will extend halal certification requirements across further food categories including:

- ▶ Milk and Dairy products
- ▶ Oils and Fats
- ▶ Confectionary
- ▶ Chilled and frozen
- ▶ Product with long shelf life at room temperature

ASIA

- **THAILAND: HEMP AND CBD DRAFT REGULATIONS APPROVED BY THE THAI FDA**

A notification specifying the requirements for hemp-derived products has been published spurring innovation in Thailand. Read the news article [here](#).

- **SOUTH KOREA: FOOD SAFETY TRACKING APP FOR IMPORTED PRODUCTS**

The pressure on supply chain transparency continues to build globally; South Korea is now piloting an app that allows consumers to get immediate information related to the food safety status of imported products.

- ▶ Allows consumers to check whether local or imported.
- ▶ Any flags or issues relating to the product in any country are shown.
- ▶ No need for the product to be part of a traceability programme to be tracked.

Read the news article [here](#).

- **SOUTH KOREA: FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS**

Issued amendments effective March 9th, 2021 on food additives regulations which include among other things, revised levels and increased scope around the natural occurrence of food additives. Read the amendments [here](#).

- **SOUTH KOREA: GOVERNANCE FOR 'ELDERLY FRIENDLY' FOOD CATEGORY**

The category was established in 2018, however, the governing organisations have been clarified as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for food containing more agricultural ingredients and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries if containing more aquatic ingredients. Read the news article [here](#).

- **INDIA: TRADITIONAL MEDICINES: AYUSH AND 'WHO' SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE THE SAFE USE.**

The partnership aims to help integrate, promote and regulate traditional systems of medicine, bringing them into the mainstream with the support of proper research and scientific evidence. Read the news article [here](#).

- **INDIA: 'COLOURING FOODS' – A NEW CATEGORY UNDER RECENT AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS**

Colouring foods are now recognised as food ingredients in a separate category to synthetic and natural colours which are considered additives. This is a welcome change in the 'clean label' industry. Read the news article [here](#).

- **INDIA: REGULATIONS TO LIMIT TRANS FAT IN FOOD**

Food products must not contain industrial trans fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in products from January 2022. Read the notification [here](#).

- **INDIA: FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (LABELLING AND DISPLAY) REGULATIONS, 2020**

The document published by the FSSAI details labelling requirements of pre-packaged foods; it includes general requirements, declaration of food additives, display of information in food service establishments, labelling requirements on non-retail containers and more. Read the notification [here](#) (English page 27).

- **JAPAN: LABELLING ALCOHOL CONTENT BY GRAMMES**

In addition to labelling alcohol as ABV, Japan is expected to implement regulations that require the inclusion of alcohol content in grammes on the product information (online, on the label etc). Read the news article [here](#).

- **MALAYSIA: HALAL RULES**

In response to the halal meat scandal in December 2020, digitalisation will be used to improve transparency and reduce fraud. This includes the mandatory use of a halal logo and a QR code that will carry product information to be used by enforcement. Read the news article [here](#).

- **CHINA: HEALTH FOOD REGULATION ON NUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTS AND CLAIMS**

The Chinese state administration for marketing regulation published a directory of Health food functions that can claim nutrient supplements. This repeals the 2016 regulations. The regulation highlights dietary intake limits of age groups, functional roles of vitamins and minerals, and provide a catalogue of the health foods to claim nutrient supplements. Read the announcement [here](#).

- **CHINA:**

To support the development of the industry, The Food Safety Law of the Peoples Republic of China published 50 national food safety standards covering food categories, additives, processing/testing measures and food contact materials. Read the announcement [here](#).

- **SINGAPORE: SUGARY DRINK FRONT OF PACK LABELLING – ‘NUTRI-GRADE’**

Public consultations for the proposed ‘Nutri-Grade’ sugar sweetened beverage labelling scheme are now open. There are four ‘grades’ A-D; Grade D products will face advertising bans. Read the news article [here](#).

AUSTRALIA

- **PLAIN-ENGLISH ALLERGEN LABELLING**

The Australia and New Zealand Food Standards Code has been amended. Businesses are required to label allergens in a specific format and location on food labels and using simple, plain English terms in bold font. A three-year transition period means food products will have to be fully compliant by February 25th 2024; during the transition, food businesses can comply with existing or new requirements.

Read the proposal [here](#).

- **APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS**

Calls for Comment:

- ▶ Application A1218 – β -Galactosidase from *Bacillus subtilis* (Enzyme) from a genetically modified organism for use as a processing aid in dairy food applications.

Gazetted:

- ▶ [A1198](#) – Food derived from enhanced yield and herbicide tolerant corn line DO202216
- ▶ [A1155](#) – 2'-FL and LNnT in infant formula and other products
- ▶ [A1175](#) – Rapeseed protein isolate as a novel food
- ▶ [A1180](#) – Natural Glycolipids as a preservative in non-alcoholic beverages
- ▶ [A1186](#) – Soy Leghaemoglobin in analogue meat

- **FOOD RECALL STATISTICS**

FSANZ data on Australian food recalls has identified undeclared allergens as the major source of recall for 2020.

Read the breakdown of statistics [here](#).

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The information is general in nature and should not be considered to be professional advice. In all cases you should officially consult with an adviser familiar with your particular factual situation for advice concerning specific matters before making any decisions.

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