June 2023

# Requirements for plain English labelling of allergens in food

Undeclared allergens in food present a significant risk to human health for people with food allergies.

New requirements are being implemented to ensure mandatory food allergen declarations are clear and consistent so that people have the information they need to make safe choices.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has developed a 5-year implementation plan to support the new requirements.

* Businesses have a 3-year transitional period (until February 2024) to comply with the new requirements. During this period, importers can comply with the old declaration requirements or new requirements.
* From 25 February 2024, a 2-year stock-in-trade period will follow the transition period. Food packaged and labelled in accordance with the old requirements may be sold for up to 2 years.

## What you need to do

* Familiarise yourself with the new allergen labelling and the implementation dates, available on the [FSANZ website](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/labelling/Pages/Allergen-labelling.aspx).
* Ensure imported food declares all allergens present, either in compliance with the previous requirements or the new requirements.
* Verify compliance by asking suppliers for ingredient information, product specification sheets and sample labels.
* Have a plan in place to ensure your food labelling complies with the new requirements by the implementation dates.

## More information

See the Australian Food & Grocery Council and Allergen Bureau [Food Industry Guide to Allergen Management and Labelling](https://www.afgc.org.au/industry-resources/food-labelling-and-allergen-guide).

Learn more about [importing food into Australia](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food).

Email [foodimp@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:foodimp@agriculture.gov.au)

Phone 1800 900 090

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2023

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.