



8 October 2019

(19-6477)

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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

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> AUSTRALIA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) <b>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:</b>  Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade <a href="mailto:tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au">tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au</a>
<b>3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:</b>
<b>4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Imported and domestically produced packaged alcoholic beverages required to bear a label for sale in Australia and New Zealand.; - Other wine; grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol: (HS 22042); Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry, mead); mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included (HS 2206); Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength (HS 2207); Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages (HS 2208)
<b>5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> Proposal P1050 Pregnancy warning labels on alcoholic beverages: Assessment Report (93 page(s), in English)
<b>6. Description of content:</b> The proposal considers changing the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to require mandatory pregnancy warning labels on packaged alcoholic beverages sold in Australia and New Zealand.  FSANZ undertook an assessment and developed a proposed 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) 2.7.1 Labelling of alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol.  The proposed variation requires a pregnancy warning label on most packaged alcoholic beverages with more than 1.15% alcohol by volume with prescribed legibility and format for the label. The pregnancy warning label includes a specified pictogram, signal words <i>Health Warning</i> and statement <i>Any amount of alcohol can harm your baby</i> . The location of the warning label is not prescribed. A 2 year transition period is provided, with an exemption for alcoholic beverages packaged and labelled before the end of the transition period from having to carry the pregnancy warning label.

7.	<p><b>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can be associated with various types of harm to the unborn child. These harms may include physical, cognitive, behavioural and neurodevelopmental disabilities with possible life-long implications. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the range of possible harms. FASD is preventable by avoiding alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The objective of the pregnancy warning label is to provide a clear and easy to understand prompt to remind pregnant women at both the point of sale and the potential point of consumption, not to drink any alcohol. The ultimate objective is to protect human health and safety and enhance consumer information and labelling. ; Consumer information, labelling; Protection of human health or safety</p>
8.	<p><b>Relevant documents:</b> Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (English) Available at <a href="http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx</a></p>
9.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> 31 March 2020 <b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> 31 March 2022</p>
10.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> 24 November 2019</p>
11.	<p><b>Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:</b> <a href="http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1050Pregnancywarninglabelsonalcoholicbeverages.aspx">http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1050Pregnancywarninglabelsonalcoholicbeverages.aspx</a></p>