Food packaging industry survey

Dear food packaging industry members

As you are aware, food packaging is important for protecting food from contamination, it also helps keep food fresh and provides information too. However, chemicals can also migrate from food packaging. This has the potential to present risks to human health and safety if not effectively managed.

Standard 1.4.3 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code requires that articles and materials in contact with food are safe. The Standard does not specify materials that can be used in the manufacture of food packaging materials or the method of manufacture. The responsibility rests with manufacturers and retailers to ensure that their products are safe and comply with all relevant legislation.

For plastic materials, the Standard refers to the Australian Standard for Plastic Materials for Food Contact Use, AS 2070-1999. This Standard provides a guide to industry about the production of plastic materials for food contact use. AS 2070, in turn, refers to the regulations of the United States and the European Union. Additionally, Standard 1.4.1 – Contaminants and Natural Toxicants, includes a number of maximum levels (MLs) for chemicals associated with migration from packaging, including vinyl chloride and acrylonitrile.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on materials and articles used in food packaging in Australia and New Zealand and associated quality assurance and control processes. This information will assist Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) in understanding the processes manufacturers and the food industry use to ensure the safety of food packaging and food in Australia and New Zealand. FSANZ is also hoping to gather information on the future of food packaging, including the use of new technologies (eg. nanotechnology).

The information collected in this questionnaire will assist FSANZ in ensuring current regulatory processes are adequate and protect public health and safety. A summary of the overall results of the questionnaire will be provided to companies that participate in the questionnaire.

Thank you for your input.

Kind regards

Dr Barbara Butow

Packaging Project Manager
Food Standards Australia New Zealand

*1. Please provide your contact details (all fields are required to continue):

Name:

Company:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Section 1. Material type and specifications

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2. Please indicate which of the following food packaging materials are manufactured by your company. If possible, please indicate the highest volume produced through to the least.

	manufactured	highest	average	least
aluminium	☐	☐	☐	☐
cardboard/paper (virgin)	☐	☐	☐	☐
cardboard/paper (recycled)	☐	☐	☐	☐
carton board (folding)	☐	☐	☐	☐
ceramics	☐	☐	☐	☐
composites (eg. paper/foil/plastic)	☐	☐	☐	☐
glass	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic mono-layers	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic multi-layers	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic laminates	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic - rigid	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic - co-extruded	☐	☐	☐	☐
printing inks	☐	☐	☐	☐
resins	☐	☐	☐	☐
steel	☐	☐	☐	☐
tin plate	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

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3. Please indicate whether the food packaging materials marked in Q. 2, are manufactured in Australia or New Zealand, are imported from elsewhere or are manufactured in Australia or New Zealand using imported products (tick multiple answers, if relevant)?

	Manufactured in Australia or New Zealand	Imported	Manufactured in Australia or New Zealand using imported products	Unknown
aluminium	☐	☐	☐	☐
cardboard/paper (virgin)	☐	☐	☐	☐
cardboard/paper (recycled)	☐	☐	☐	☐
carton board (folding)	☐	☐	☐	☐
ceramics	☐	☐	☐	☐
composites (eg. paper/foil/plastic)	☐	☐	☐	☐
glass	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic mono-layers	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic multi-layers	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic laminates	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic - rigid	☐	☐	☐	☐
plastic - co-extruded	☐	☐	☐	☐
printing inks	☐	☐	☐	☐
resins	☐	☐	☐	☐
steel	☐	☐	☐	☐
tin plate	☐	☐	☐	☐

Additional comments

4. If your response to Q.3 included products manufactured in Australia or New Zealand using imported products, please indicate if you are able to readily trace back through your suppliers where the imported materials are sourced from?

○ Yes

○ No

Please provide further details or comments regarding product traceability:

5. If you answered 'imported' in Q 3 or imported materials are used in your products, please state the main country of origin, or state 'multiple countries' if too numerous to list.

aluminium	
cardboard/paper (virgin)	
cardboard/paper (recycled)	
carton board (folding)	
ceramics	
composites (eg. paper/foil/plastic)	
glass	
plastic mono-layers	
plastic multi-layers	
plastic laminates	
plastic - rigid	
plastic - co-extruded	
printing inks	
resins	
steel	
tin plate	

Section 2: Future trends

6. Do you anticipate any changes in the next 5 years to the types of packaging materials used by your company e.g. active or intelligent packaging?
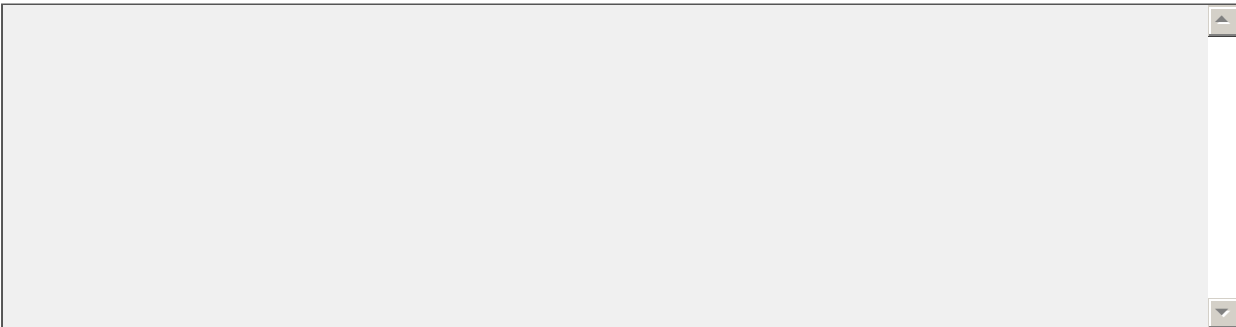
○ No

○ Yes

If yes, please provide details:

7. Are nanotechnologies used in food packaging manufactured or imported by your company? (e.g the use of nanoscale titanium nitride or silver particles)
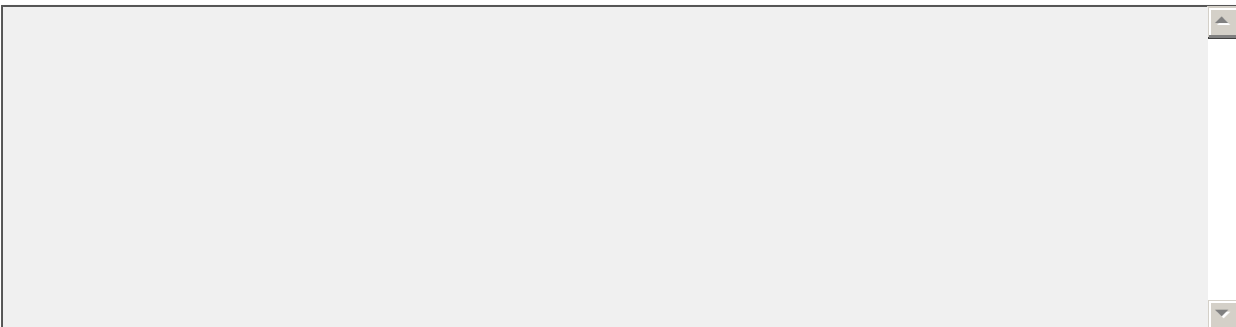
○ No

○ Yes

If yes, please provide details:

8. Has your business investigated the potential use of nanotechnologies in food packaging materials in the next 5 years ?

○ No

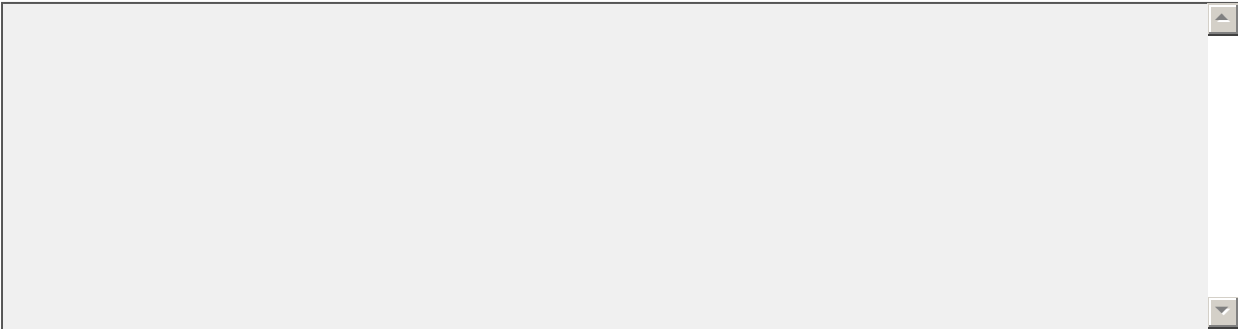○ Yes

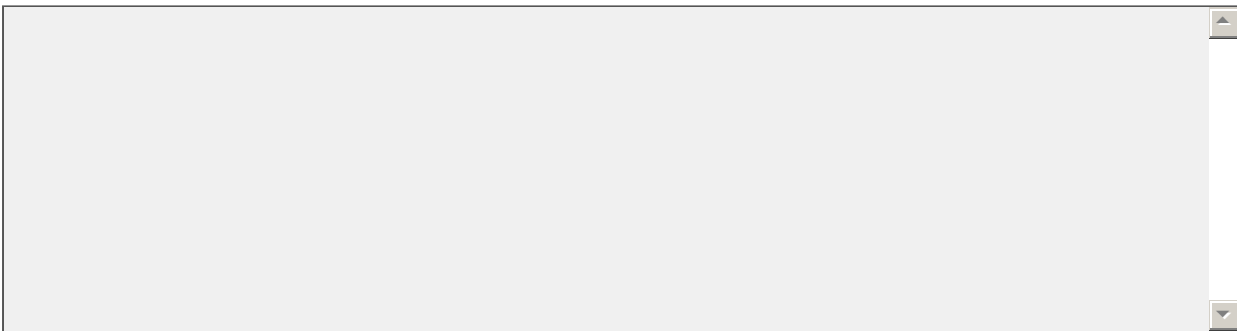If yes, please provide details:

Section 3: Legislative requirements

9. How does your company interpret and apply the current Australian/New Zealand standards for food packaging materials?

10. Are there any gaps in current Australia/New Zealand packaging requirements?

☐ No

☐ Yes

If yes, please specify
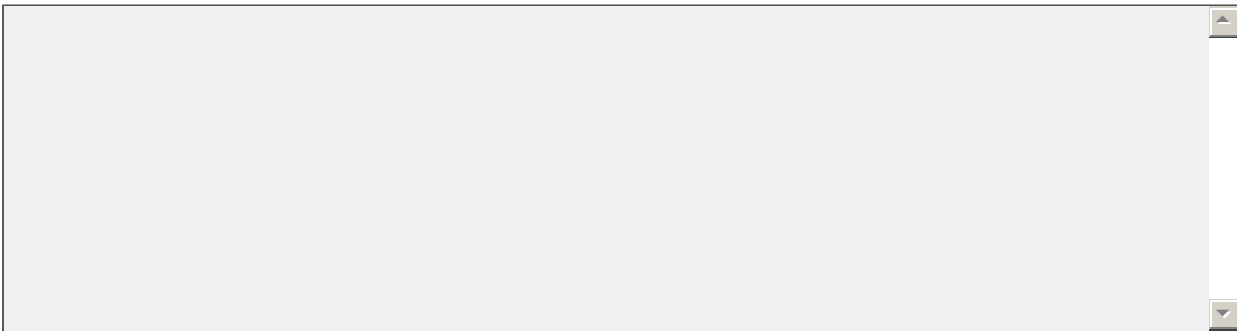
Food packaging industry survey
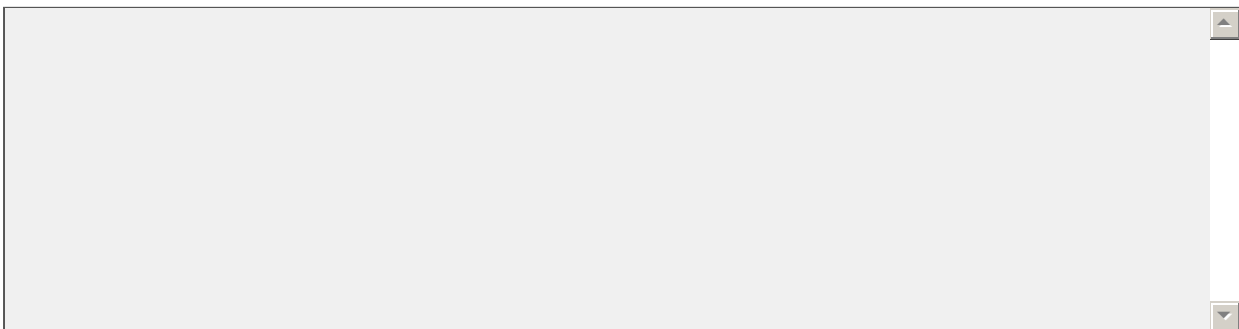
11. Does your company refer to international packaging regulations, eg. from the following countries or regions ?

- ☐ Canada
- ☐ China
- ☐ European Union
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Gulf States
- ☐ India
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ Korea
- ☐ Russia
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ United States

Other (please specify)

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12. Please describe the main elements of domestic or other international legislation that your business finds difficult to comply with, if any, and any work that has been undertaken to ensure compliance in these areas.
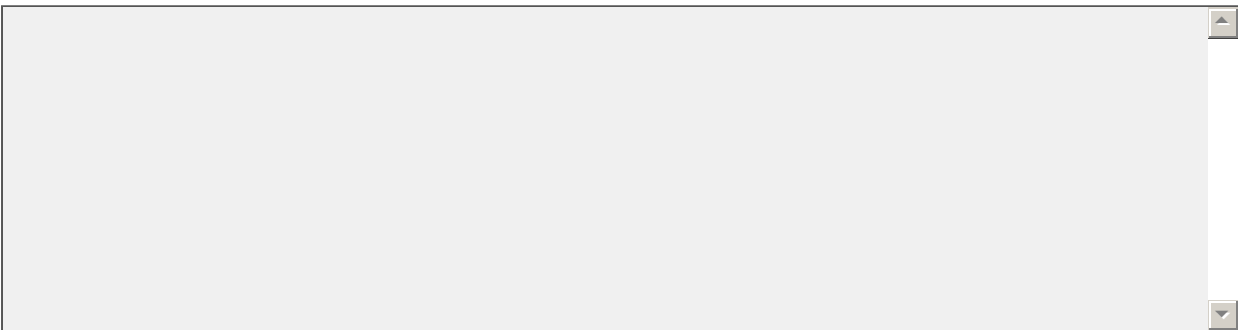
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Section 4: Quality Assurance and Quality Control

13. Please describe the quality assurance (QA) systems (with regards to packaging) that are currently in place in your company?
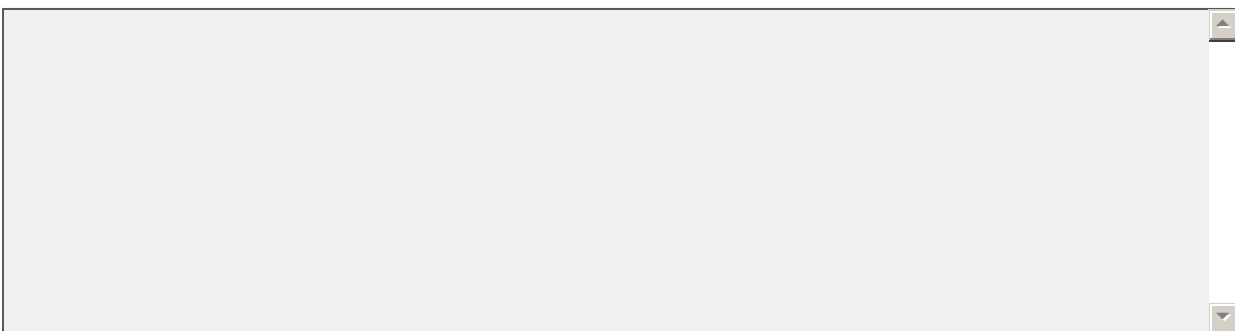
14. Please list the quality control (QC) measures that your company uses to ensure that starter materials and end products comply with specifications determined in the QA system (eg for raw materials; certificates of compliance, or analytical testing)?

15. Please indicate if your company uses any of the following industry guidelines, or Codes of Practice?

☐ AIB

☐ BRC

☐ BS 15593

☐ CEPI

☐ EuPIA

☐ ISO 22000

☐ PAS 223

Please list any other industry guidelines or Codes of Practice used: