

FSANZ NEWS (26/08/2010)

FSANZ, under funding obtained through the National Nanotechnology Strategy and the recently launched National Enabling Technologies Strategy has sought to investigate and assess the potential application of nanotechnologies in food, and to consider the regulatory implications for ensuring the safety of food in Australia and New Zealand.

A key component to that work, in addition to amendments of the FSANZ Application Handbook, has been engagement with national and international food regulatory partners to ensure that FSANZ is aware of developments in nanotechnology that may impact upon food and share experiences and information in order to ensure a consistent regulatory response.

To build upon a successful series of regulatory risk assessment workshops with other key Australian regulators, FSANZ hosted a one day workshop on nanotechnology in Canberra on 28 June 2010.

The workshop, chaired by Dr Andrew Bartholomaeus, provided for FSANZ and invited Australian experts to discuss aspects relevant to the scientific risk assessment of nanoscale particles in food including the pharmacokinetics and in vivo toxicity of nanoscale particles following oral ingestion, as well as the risk assessment and risk management of nanoscale materials with a focus on food.

Outcomes from the workshop will assist in informing FSANZ's ongoing program of work to review and revise, where necessary, existing arrangements for regulation of nanotechnologies in food. This will further ensure FSANZ's capacity to undertake best practice risk assessment of foods incorporating novel nanotechnologies should FSANZ receive an application to amend the Code in the future.