

General Circular

4 June 2018

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An important update from the NSW Food Authority (Food Authority) for all licensed meat retailers in NSW.

Country of origin labelling for unpackaged raw meat

We previously wrote to you in 2015 advising of changes to the Food Standards Code, specifically country of origin labelling requirements that affected retail meat at the point-of-sale.

Under those changes the Food Standards Code mandated that the Country of origin of the food must be identified by anyone who sells pork, beef, veal, lamb, hogget, mutton or chicken, whether the meat is supplied fresh, frozen, filleted, minced, pickled, cured, marinated or cooked.

During this period, the Food Authority continued regulatory responsibility for the Country of origin labelling requirements and endeavoured to provide guidelines, supporting materials and advice during audits and inspections.

What are the new changes?

On 1 July 2016, The Australian Government introduced a new country of origin food labelling system. Under the new system, Country of origin labelling requirements fall under the **Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016** (Standard) under Australian Consumer Law. Under this Standard, businesses were provided two years to transition to these arrangements.

A guide to assist businesses to comply with the Standard has been developed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

What does this mean?

As of 1 July 2018 the Food Authority will cease all regulatory responsibility for country of origin labelling and all previous advice, guidelines and factsheets issued by the Food Authority will cease to have any effect and should not be used to demonstrate compliance with the new provisions.

As of 1 July 2018, the legislative requirements for country of origin labelling will become the responsibility of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

Tell me more...

Information about country of origin labelling is available from the ACCC website, including a series of frequently asked questions. Visit [here](#) for more information.

Visit www.accc.gov.au for more information about your rights and legal responsibilities. You can contact the ACCC by calling the small business helpline on 1300 302 021.