

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNPACKAGED SEAFOOD

Country of origin labelling

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

The Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016 (the Standard) commenced under Australian Consumer Law on 1 July 2016 and regulates the country of origin information that must be provided for most food offered or suitable for retail sale in Australia. It's important that you are aware of the obligations imposed by the Standard.

The ACCC has published a range of tools to assist the food industry to comply with the new labelling requirements and these can be found on their website.

All queries relating to country of origin labelling, including penalties for noncompliance should be directed to the ACCC

Naming of seafood

Under the *Food Act 2003*, it is an offence to describe food incorrectly. This includes calling one type of seafood another (seafood substitution).

What names to use for seafood

Use the names in the Australian Fish Names Standard. This list, which includes names for fish, crustaceans and shellfish, was developed in consultation with industry and government.

You can access the Australian Fish Names Database at <http://www.fishnames.com.au/>

Penalties for noncompliance

Falsely describing seafood can result in penalty notices up to \$1540. Repeat or serious offences can result in court imposed fines of up to \$55,000 for individuals and \$275,000 for corporations.

The Food Authority publishes lists of businesses that have breached or are alleged to have breached NSW food safety laws on its website. See

www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/offences

More information

- visit Food Authority website at foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry
- phone the helpline on 1300 552 406
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) user guide for country of origin labelling. See foodstandards.gov.au
- For Country of Origin labelling enquiries, contact the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission at www.accc.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-accc or visit their [website at
www.accc.gov.au/business/advertising-promoting-your-business/country-of-origin-claims/country-of-origin-food-labelling](http://www.accc.gov.au/business/advertising-promoting-your-business/country-of-origin-claims/country-of-origin-food-labelling)

About the NSW Food Authority: The NSW Food Authority is the government organisation that helps ensure NSW food is safe and correctly labelled. It works with consumers, industry and other government organisations to minimise food poisoning by providing information about and regulating the safe production, storage, transport, promotion and preparation of food.

Note: This information is a general summary and cannot cover all situations. Food businesses are required to comply with all of the provisions of the Food Standards Code and the *Food Act 2003* (NSW).