

Comments from Department of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs Transport & Resources, Victoria
Due Date: 10 August 2015

The Victorian Departments of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs Transport & Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Proposal P1038 – vitamin and mineral claims & sodium claims about food containing alcohol.

The departments recognise that, when Standard 1.2.7 comes into effect in January 2016, some products that have a serving size (specified by the manufacturer) less than the reference quantity specified in Standard 1.3.2 (Vitamins and minerals) may be unable to continue to make “contains” or “source” claims for vitamins or minerals. The departments note that the proposed change to the Standard 1.2.7 will allow for these claims to be made in such circumstances and that the proposed change will affect a relatively small number of products. However, this proposal once again highlights some unresolved issues that have been raised in recent past proposals and applications, including the need for standardised serve sizes and updating of population health intake targets from Recommended Daily Intakes (RDIs) to Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs). That notwithstanding, the departments support this amendment to Standard 1.2.7 in principle.

It is understood that the second amendment proposed will allow some foods containing low levels of alcohol (such as soy sauces) that are currently marketed with claims about sodium or salt levels to continue to make these claims. The departments are of the view that such claims are designed to allow consumers to select products that contribute to their health, and thus facilitate choices consistent with national dietary guidelines. Hence, on that basis, the departments support the second amendment to Standard 1.2.7 in principle.