

## Health Star Rating System Policy Context – What is an anomaly?

### Background

The development of the Health Star Rating (HSR) system was guided by the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council's (now the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (Forum)) *Front of Pack Labelling Policy Statement (2009)* and the Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL) Project Committee's *Objectives and Principles for the Development of a front of pack labelling system*. These documents together with Forum policy decisions made during the development of the HSR system provide the basis for assessing potential anomalies.

### Context

- The purpose of the HSR System is to provide convenient, relevant and readily understood nutrition information and/or guidance on food packs to assist consumers to make informed food purchases and healthier eating choices.
- The priority focus of the HSR system is packaged food products presented for retail sale through supermarkets and similar retail outlets.
- The HSR system enables valid comparisons between foods based on agreed and consistent measures. Comparisons are enabled in the first instance between packaged foods within a category, and as a second order between food categories.
- The HSR is calculated using the HSR Calculator, which analyses agreed food components, specifically energy, saturated fat, total sugars, sodium, protein, dietary fibre, and fruit/vegetable/nut/legume (FVNL) content in order to calculate a star rating.
- The HSR is intended to interpret the balance of agreed food components and guide consumer choice based on the product's nutritional qualities. It is not intended to guide the portions or volumes consumed.
- Packaged water as regulated in the Australia New Zealand Food Standard Code *Standard 2.6.2 – Non-alcoholic Beverages and Brewed Soft Drinks* receives an automatic 5-star rating.

### Anomalies

The HSR system should:

- be consistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines (ADG); and
- enable valid comparisons between foods based on agreed food components (energy, saturated fat, total sugars, sodium, protein, dietary fibre and FVNL).

For the purposes of the HSR system, an anomaly occurs when a star rating is inconsistent with the ADG, or when used to make comparisons within a food category or across comparable food categories would mislead consumers. The HSR Advisory Committee will take both factors into account as part of its considerations.

## Overview of process for consideration of anomalies with the Health Star Rating Calculator

### All applications

Step	Description
1	Applicant makes submission, via the Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL) Secretariat, using agreed form.
2	Secretariat to conduct application pre-screen. Is the form correctly completed and supporting documents provided.
3	Receipt of submission acknowledged in writing by FoPL Secretariat within 10 working days (form letter).
4	Web based register of submissions updated with brief summary of the application (details from application form).
5	Submissions will be considered by the Health Star Rating Advisory Committee (HSRAC) either at its next scheduled meeting or out-of-session (via email/teleconference) where there is more than 30 working days before the next scheduled meeting.  Factual cover paper developed by the FoPL Secretariat to facilitate HSRAC consideration of submission. The FoPL Secretariat requires fifteen working days to prepare the factual cover paper for HSRAC consideration.
6	Applicant notified of HSRAC's consideration (form letter) – eg. Application closed, application referred for technical advice / consideration by the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) / Australian and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (Forum).
7	Web based register of submissions updated with details of HSRAC's consideration and next steps.
8	Close application or refer for technical advice.

### Applications referred for technical advice

Step	Description
8a	Provide application to technical expert (either a panel of pre-selected technical specialists, or an individual technical specialist with expertise relevant to the potential anomaly), outlining HSRAC's deliberations and request for technical advice on all or part of the application.
8b	Technical expert/s to consider and provide written advice to HSRAC.
8c	Technical advice provided to HSRAC for consideration either at next scheduled meeting or out-of-session (via email/teleconference).
8d	Applicant notified of HSRAC's consideration and next steps (form letter).
8e	Website register updated.
8f	Close application.

## All applications

Step	Description
9	Provide overview of submissions received and HSRAC's responses at meetings of the FRSC (via HSRAC Chair who is a member of the FRSC) and the Forum (via the FRSC).
10	If it is agreed that there is an anomaly, HSRAC to make a recommendation to the FRSC/Forum for how to address this.
11	Applicants advised of FRSC / Forum's decision.
12	HSRAC to action FRSC / Forum's decision.

## Decision Review

Step	Description
1	Requests for a decision review presenting new information or evidence must be provided to HSRAC in writing within 20 working days of receipt of HSRAC's consideration.
2	Receipt of request for decision review acknowledged in writing by FoPL Secretariat within 10 working days.
3	Requests for a decision review will be considered by the HSRAC either at its next scheduled meeting or out-of-session (via email/teleconference) where there is more than 30 working days before the next scheduled meeting.  Factual cover paper developed by the FoPL Secretariat to facilitate HSRAC consideration of submission.  The FoPL Secretariat requires fifteen working days to prepare the factual cover paper for HSRAC consideration.
4	Applicant notified of HSRAC's consideration (form letter) – eg. application closed, application referred for technical advice / consideration by the FRSC / Forum.
5	Web based register of submissions updated.
6	Close application or refer for technical advice / FRSC / Forum.