

From: [Media](#)
To: [Webb, Trevor](#); [Booth, Mark](#); [Media](#)
Cc: [Neal, Glen](#); [May, Peter](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed different approach [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 14 June 2017 2:22:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Trevor

I'll wait for Mark's sign of and any other comments. Could I have them by 3pm please.
Lorraine

From: Webb, Trevor
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Booth, Mark; Media
Cc: Neal, Glen; May, Peter
Subject: RE: Proposed different approach [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi all,

Shape is important for inhalation and dermal exposure – less so ingestion.

Suggested sentence (cleared by Nic & Steve):

The needle-like shape of particles is unlikely to present a significant hazard given they are likely to dissolve in the stomach. Any safety issues would be related to the constituent components, in this case calcium and phosphate. These are considered beneficial and required to be added to infant formula. Follow – on – but already stated in our response

It should be noted that a relationship between oral ingestion of particulate material and disease has not been convincingly demonstrated in laboratory animals or humans. In fact, humans have been exposed to dietary microparticles and nanoparticles as a normal occurrence throughout evolution without significant evidence of adverse effect due to the particulate nature of the materials.

From: Booth, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Media
Cc: Webb, Trevor; Neal, Glen; May, Peter
Subject: Re: Proposed different approach [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

My understanding is that 'needle like' refers to the shape of the particle & has no other connotations- is this correct? Whilst I don't think we should get into a tit for tat response I do think you could reply with words to the extent that this refers to the shape given that this is the angle she will be using

Sent from my iPhone

On 14 Jun 2017, at 1:46 pm, Media <Media@foodstandards.gov.au> wrote:

See response from Esther.

There may be differing views, but I think we could use a line along the lines regardless of size, shape etc FSANZ does not have concerns. Or similar?

This also confirms for me that she's going down the needle shape scary route.

From: Esther Han [[mailto: \[REDACTED\]](#)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:16 PM

To: Media

Subject: Re: FW: Proposed different approach [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Thanks Lorraine, confirming I've received FSANZ's response.

It's really interesting that it doesn't once refer to "needle-like nano hydroxyapatite", which I referred to dozens of times in my media request.

Esther

[Esther Han](#)

<[REDACTED]>

On 14 June 2017 at 13:11, Media <Media@foodstandards.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Esther

We have provided a statement below. FSANZ is concerned that an extremely vulnerable section of the community will be unnecessarily scared by this work and we therefore would appreciate balanced reporting on this issue.

FSANZ statement in response to nanoparticle detection in infant formula

FSANZ scientists (along with experts who make up an expert advisory group on nanotechnology) have examined the data provided in the PowerPoint. The findings do not contain any new information to suggest that these products might pose a public health and safety risk.

FSANZ takes concerns about food safety extremely seriously. FSANZ does not believe that there is a risk to infant health and safety.

Hydroxyapatite is a mineral. It is a natural component of bone and teeth. It is a source of calcium and phosphate, and small amounts in food are likely to readily dissolve in the stomach to release these minerals which are beneficial when absorbed. Both calcium and phosphate are required to be in infant formula as nutritive substances.

The presence of a substance in food (regardless of size), that is not in the additive schedule, does not mean there is a safety concern. Particles (nanoscale or otherwise) could be present in food unintentionally as a result of food processing techniques. Nanoparticles also occur naturally and can be found in foods.

The EC Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) opinion on hydroxyapatite considered that the information provided by applicants was insufficient to draw a conclusion on safety when used in oral cosmetic products (e.g. toothpaste, whiteners, mouth washes) at levels of up to 10%. In reaching this conclusion, the SCCS noted that the hydroxyapatite materials under consideration could not clearly be related to the data submitted.

The SCCS report is considered of limited relevance to the detection of trace amounts of hydroxyapatite in the FoE-commissioned study of infant formula. Several of your questions relate to enforcement and compliance. FSANZ is not an enforcement agency and does not have the power under its legislation to initiate a recall.

Lorraine Haase

Manager

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

[REDACTED]
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