



# **FTAA Allergen Protocols Food Allergen Management and issues for SME's**

**Peter Bush CFS FAIST**



# Background to the Project



The 2015 FTAA Technical Symposium on Food Safety run in conjunction with the CSIRO included several papers on allergens. Feedback from the delegates indicated there was a need for a guidance document on Allergen management in the food plant – particularly for Medium to small companies.

This then resulted in the decision to embark on a project to eventually publish these guidelines with the help of the many organisations ( many who are present at this conference)



It is difficult to obtain actual numbers of SME's including catering establishments that need to be allergen aware conservatively it could be between 80000 and 100000 ( including approx 20000 importers of food products into Australia).

We cannot find a source of these and can only surmise that local /State Authorities and Customs would be the major source.



# RECALLS DUE TO UNDECLARED ALLERGENS

YEAR 2015 – 39

YEAR 2016 – 33

YEAR 2017 – 34

YEAR 2018 – 32 (8 MONTHS TO 16/08/18)

FIGURES COURTESY OF THE FSANZ WEB SITE AS AT 16/08/18



The WORKING GROUP is currently assembling the DRAFT Manual text.

The Group comprises members from the Allergen Bureau, Dairy Food Safety Victoria, DTS Food Labs, Lion Co, NMI, Robin Sherlock, Simplot, plus members of the of the FTAA Technical Committee



## MAJOR CONCERNS RAISED BY COMPANIES

- ACCURACY OF IMPORTED LABELS
- ACCURACY OF IMPORTED DOCUMENTS/PIFS OF IMPORTED INGREDIENTS
- UNDERSTANDING BY IMPORTERS INTO AUSTRALIA OF PRODUCT STANDARDS
- AWARENESS OF WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION SPILLS RE ALLERGENS
- CORRECT DOCUMENTATION/PROCESS/RECIPES LEADING TO LABEL APPROVAL
- INPLANT CONTROL OF ALLERGENS WAREHOUSING/DISPENSARY/FILLING LINES/ CHILLERS/FREEZERS/PACKAGING LINES/ STORAGE AND HANDLING SPILLS
- COMMON EQUIPMENT/STORAGE CONTAINERS, SCOOPS ETC
- CHECK AND CONTROL OF LABELS IN STORAGE AND USE
- LEVELS OF ALLERGEN TESTING SUFFICIENT FOR VALIDATION
- FALSE POSITIVES AND LEVELS OF DETECTION AND RESULTS RELIABILITY
- LACK OF IN PLANT TRAINING



## TIMING

**END September 2018** - first rough draft of handbook

**January 2019** - final text of handbook

Then the big challenge commences : -

How to reach Importers, SME's, EHO's and Health Departments.

(The main team is currently working on this – but any assistance or suggestions appreciated)





**Further to this presentation it was decided to wait and review the Allergen Bureau Risk review Website – which Lisa has introduced today.**

**We believe this is an excellent tool and will continue discussions on how it can be implemented as a training tool for SME's**

**WELL DONE ALLERGEN BUREAU**



THANK  
YOU

