



## **P1035 – Gluten Claims about Foods containing Alcohol**

**December 2014**

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the national association of the dietetic profession with over 5800 members, and branches in each state and territory. DAA is a leader in nutrition and advocates for better food, better health, and wellbeing for all. DAA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on P1035 – Gluten Claims about Foods containing Alcohol by Food Standards Australia New Zealand

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## **DAA interest in this consultation**

DAA advocates for a safe and nutritious food supply in which the community has confidence, and which meets the nutritional needs of groups with special needs.

As experts in nutrition, Accredited Practising Dietitians (APDs) assist individuals with special needs and the population with the translation of food labels and nutrition content claims. APDs also provide nutritional expertise relating to the development of food products that must comply with the current regulatory framework.

## **Recommendations**

DAA supports the proposed amendment to the Code permitting the continuation of gluten content claims to be made on food and drinks containing more than 1.15% alcohol.

## **Discussion**

DAA recognises the need for people with Coeliac disease or other clinical sensitivity to gluten containing foods to have access to accurate information on food labels to assist them to make informed and safe food choices. DAA supports the proposed amendment to the Code to permit foods containing more than 1.15% alcohol to continue to carry gluten content claims for the reasons outlined below.

- DAA agrees that without such an amendment to the Code, there will be no method for consumers with Coeliac disease to identify gluten free products in this food category.<sup>1</sup>
- There are other foods that contain more than 1.15% alcohol by volume for which gluten free options may be appropriate or are currently available e.g. soy sauce, marinades and essences. It is important that consumers are aware of the gluten content of such foods to avoid unnecessarily restricting their intake as a precaution.

## **References**

1. Food Standards Australia New Zealand, *Ingredient Labelling of Foods User Guide to Standard 1.2.4 – Labelling of Ingredients*. Canberra: Food Standards Australia New Zealand, 2013.