

Next Generation Meat Pie

Recently, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand have changed the definition of what constitutes a meat pie. Three years of deliberation and consultation has seen the FSANZ approve the application filed by Mrs Macs to have the definition changed. The standards have been implemented with the intention of decreasing customer uncertainty and improving the general industry standards.

At the present time the definition of a meat pie is *“a pie containing no less than 250 g/kg of meat”*. And the definition of ‘meat’ is *“the whole or part of the carcass of any buffalo, camel, cattle, deer, goat, hare, pig, poultry, rabbit or sheep, slaughtered other than in a wild state, but does not include:*

(a) the whole or part of the carcass of any other animal unless permitted for human consumption under a law of a State, Territory or New Zealand;

or;

(b) avian eggs, or foetuses or part of foetuses.”

The new definition of a meat pie is *“A pie containing no less than 250 g/kg of meat flesh.”* And the definition of ‘meat flesh’ is *“the skeletal muscle of any slaughtered animal, and any attached -*

(a) animal rind; and

(b) fat; and

(c) connective tissue; and

(d) nerve; and

(e) blood; and

(f) blood vessels; and

(g) skin, in the case of poultry.”

The changes are not a result of any public health or safety issues, instead they are to counteract any misinterpretations or deceptions which may occur in the industry. The changes also offer the added benefit of reducing poor practice claims. The affected parties will primarily be pie manufacturers, retailers and consumers. Manufacturers may need to introduce new production processes and retailers will need to ensure the pies they sell are in line with the changes. For the consumers, the narrowing of the definition is in their best interests and provides them with the opportunity to make an informed decision.

The changes were implemented as of 11th October 2007 and should now be enforced by all involved parties. For more information on the new pie standards and any enquiries you may have, please visit www.foodstandards.gov.au.

Source: Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, and Mrs. Macs