



Food Unit Notice

Freshwater crayfish farming.

Notice number 23.1

October 2023, version 1

Distribution of Notice

Western Australia local governments (LG) and industry stakeholders.

Purpose

To provide a consistent approach to the application of the Food Act registration and notification provisions as it applies to the sale of freshwater crayfish for human consumption by primary food production businesses.

Actions

Food Act enforcement agencies (LG) are to follow the approach outlined in this notice with respect to the notification and registration provisions of the Food Act as it applies to the sale of freshwater crayfish for human consumption.

Industry stakeholders (businesses) are to consider if this is applicable to their respective scope of operations and demonstrate compliance accordingly.

Applicable references

The below table contains the minimum references applicable to freshwater crayfish farming.

<i>Food Act 2008</i>	s.10	Meaning of food business
	s.11(2)	Meaning of primary food production
	S.8	Meaning of sell
<i>Food Regulations 2009</i>	r.6	Activities NOT primary production
<i>Food Standards Code</i>	Std 4.2.1	Clauses 1-14
	Std 4.1.1	All

Background

The expansion of the WA freshwater crayfish industry has led to increasing awareness of food safety requirements and questions around how the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, specifically standard 4.2.1 is applied to commercial freshwater crayfish farming. There are limited resources to guide food safety compliance for this industry sector and for that reason the Department of Health continues to consult with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, peak industry bodies and relevant local government stakeholders. The intention of this notice is to provide clear direction on the scope and application of Standard 4.2.1 as it applies to commercial freshwater crayfish farming in WA.

Application of Standard 4.2.1 Primary Production and Processing for Seafood

This standard applies to all food businesses engaged in the primary production and processing of freshwater crayfish and requires such food businesses to register with their relevant local government.

The standard requires a seafood business to systematically examine all primary production and processing operations to identify potential seafood safety hazards and implement controls that are commensurate with the food safety risk.

Resources and websites

- WA Department of Health ww2.health.wa.gov.au
- Food Standards Australia <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx>

More information

Contact the Environmental Health Directorate Food safety team

Email: foodsafety@health.wa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 9222 2000

Website: ww2.health.wa.gov.au

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