



# FOOD UNIT NOTICE

**SUBJECT:** Approved Laboratories and Analysts

**Notice Number:** 10.7

**Date of Issue:** 25/11/2010

## **Distribution of Notice:**

Local government enforcement agencies

## **Purpose:**

To ensure local government enforcement agencies submit legal food samples to a laboratory or analyst that is approved for the specific analysis in accordance with Part 7 (Taking and analysis of samples) of the *Food Act 2008* (the Act).

## **Background:**

Part 7 of the Act provides a legal framework for the taking and analysis of samples including the approval of laboratories and analysts by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health (DOH). The *Approval of Laboratories and Analysts* policy has been developed by the DOH to support the requirements of the Act.

The approval of laboratories and analysts under the Act came into effect on 23 October 2010. This Food Unit Notice therefore only applies in relation to 'legal food samples' submitted for analysis after 23 October 2010.

## **Approval of Laboratories and Analysts**

Laboratories and analysts are required to seek NATA accreditation to be approved to conduct analyses in accordance with the Act. All laboratories applying for approval under the Act will generally be approved to only conduct analyses / tests that have been accredited by NATA.

Some laboratories have now been approved by the CEO of the Department of Health and the list of approved laboratories is available on the Food Unit's website. It is important that local government enforcement agencies, when submitting legal food samples, check that the laboratory is NATA approved for the required analysis.

Section 81 of the Act requires that an approved laboratory or analyst provide a 'Certificate of Analysis' that is in the approved form. The information that must be included in a 'Certificate of Analysis' is available on the Food Unit's website.



## Further information:

The following documents can provide further guidance in relation to this matter:

1. *Approval of Laboratories and Analysts Policy*
2. *Certificate of Analysis: Food Act 2008 (Section 81)*

## Useful Resources and Websites:

- Department of Health WA [www.public.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au)
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au>
- Food Regulation Secretariat <http://www.health.gov.au>

## Contact the Food Unit:

Any feedback or concerns please utilise the “Food Unit Query” form which can be downloaded from our website:

[http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/786/3/food\\_informatio.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/786/3/food_informatio.pm)

Email: [FoodUnit@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:FoodUnit@health.wa.gov.au)

Ph: (08) 9388 4999

Fax: (08) 9382 8119

Web: [www.public.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au)

*Note: The information contained in this document covers the food legislation requirements for Western Australia. It is current on the date of publication but may change without notice. The Department of Health is not liable for any costs arising from or associated with decisions based on information here and users should obtain expert advice to satisfy all requirements of the relevant food legislation applicable.*

