



# New national Food Safety Standards for the primary production and processing of leafy vegetables, melons, and berries

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has developed new national standards for the primary production and processing of [leafy vegetables](#), [melons](#), and [berries](#) which will come into effect across Australia in 12 February 2025.

These new standards are automatically adopted by Western Australia's (WA) *Food Act 2008*. The Department of Health WA (WA Health) is currently coordinating the implementation of the new standards, and communications to industry and local government.

This factsheet provides you information on frequently asked questions on the new standards.

## Why were the standards introduced?

The most effective stage to manage food safety to prevent food poisoning is at the primary production and processing stage. For this reason, food safety standards are already in force for the primary production and processing of poultry meat, seafood, meat, dairy products, eggs and seed sprouts.

However, foodborne illness, deaths and product recalls continue to be linked to fresh berries, leafy vegetables, and melons, costing the Australian economy approximately \$20 million each year.

## What crops are captured by the new standards?



### Leafy Vegetables\*

All lettuces, kale, chicory, watercress, swiss chard, Asian leafy greens, all leafy herbs consumed raw, spring onions, microgreens, all spinach leaves, silverbeet, and cabbage.



### Fresh melons\*

Watermelon, rockmelon, honeydew melon, piel de sapo, galia melon, charentais melon, Korean melon, hami melon.



### Fresh berries\*

Strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, boysenberry, loganberry, silvanberry and youngberry.

\*including, but not limited to

## What activities of my business will be captured by the new standards?



### Primary Production

Growing and harvesting, including inputs (eg. soil, fertiliser, water, seeds, seedlings, soil amendments), management of weather events.



### Primary Processing

Washing, trimming, sorting, sanitising, storing, combining, packing, transport between processing facilities



### Other requirements

Traceability, premises and equipment, animals and pests, skills and knowledge, health and hygiene.

## What do I need to do?

You will be required to notify/register with your local government (LG) if you are growing or processing crops that are captured by the new standards.

## **Is this in addition to the approval that I already have for my market stall?**

Yes. If you are growing and/or processing leafy vegetables, melons, or berries, the new food safety requirements will apply to your primary production and processing activities. As such, the LG will need to assess your primary production and/or processing activities to ensure it complies with the new requirements.

## **Do I still need to notify/register with the local government if I am on Freshcare or a food safety scheme?**

Yes, all applicable growers and processors will need to notify/register. As Freshcare, SQF and Global GAP are recognised in WA, the registration process for growers and processors on these schemes will be simplified. You will only be required to provide general business contact details and copies of a few forms that you already have completed as part of your certification. Since you are already audited by a certified independent third-party auditor, you will **not** be subjected to additional routine inspections. Your scheme owner will also be in touch with you to provide you further information.

## **What do the new standards require?**

Leafy vegetable and melon growers or processors who are **not** on a food safety scheme will need to complete a Food Safety Management Statement to describe how food safety risks will be managed. Your LG will conduct routine inspections to check that you are compliant with the standards.

Berry growers and processors will not be required to formally document how their food safety risks will be managed but must have the required infrastructure and processes in place to meet the new standards. The LG may still conduct random inspections to check that compliance with the standards is met.

## **What if I source directly from another grower or distributor?**

The new standards will not apply to you if you are not a grower or processor. From February 2025, your supplier of leafy vegetables, melons, or berries must have notified/registered with their LG as a food business. It is your responsibility to ensure that the food you resell is safe and from a reputable supplier.

## **When and how do I get registered?**

Contact your LG where your farm is located and/or where you process your crops for a registration form and Food Safety Management Statement template.

Your LG will provide you the tools and resources to help you identify and manage food safety in your production and processes.

## **Where can I get more information on the standards?**

More information is available on the WA Health website on the new standards on the link below or scan the QR code:

[https://www.health.wa.gov.au/articles/n\\_r/primary-production-and-processing-standards-for-leafy-vegetables-melons-and-berries](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/articles/n_r/primary-production-and-processing-standards-for-leafy-vegetables-melons-and-berries)



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