



## LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ANALYTICAL COMMITTEE

### CO-ORDINATED SAMPLING PROJECT 8

#### LOCAL GOODS

October to November 2012

#### **Introduction**

This report summarises the findings from the Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee (LHAAC) Coordinated Sampling Project on Local Goods – Project 8. This Coordinated Sampling Project (CSP) is a follow on investigation from the Imported Foods survey Project 7 conducted in April 2012. The intention being to compare compliance levels of local goods when compared to imported foods.

Local Governments were provided with direction from the LHAAC Co-ordinator as to the type of products to sample. These were to be in similar food groups as in the previous Imported Food CSP. These were:

Sauces & Marinades	Ready to Eat Meals (RTEM)
Noodles & Rice	Miscellaneous
Jams & Fruit	Biscuits & Cakes
Meat & Fish	Dried Products
Cheese & Dairy	Pies

#### **Consignment Details**

This was another well supported Co-ordinated Sampling Project by Local Governments. At the end of the survey, 355 local food products had been submitted by 27 participating Local Governments. These figures are very similar to those obtained for the Imported Foods survey - Project 7.

The breakdown of the number of samples submitted by each Local Government is presented in Appendix 1.

#### **Testing Methodology**

Agrifood Technology looked at two main areas when assessing each sample.

Firstly the Nutritional Information Panel (NIP) was examined for compliance. This looked at the content of the NIP, the calculations used, formatting of the NIP and also legibility of the NIP (font size, language etc).

Secondly, a full nutritional analysis was conducted by Agrifood Technology and the results were directly compared with the product's declared NIP.

In previous sampling projects, analysis has at times been compromised by the absence of nutritional information on the packaging with Agrifood then having little to compare its measured results against. Local Goods are required to have this nutritional information present and of the 355 food products

submitted, only 7 products had nutritional information missing. This allowed conclusive results to come from this particular co-ordinated sampling project.

### **Products Types Submitted**

The product types identified prior to the survey were listed in the introduction above. These product types made up the majority of the products submitted however there were also other food products submitted. The following table shows the breakdown of all samples received by product type:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Number of Samples</b>	<b>Number of Sub Standard Samples</b>	<b>% of Sub Standard Samples</b>	<b>% of Sub Standard Samples (Imported Food CSP)</b>
Sauces & Marinades	83	26	31%	42%
Noodles & Rice	69	20	29%	61%
Jams & Fruits	62	20	32%	50%
Meat & Fish	40	11	22%	44%
Cheese & Dairy	34	13	38%	56%
Ready to Eat Meals	28	5	18%	NA
Miscellaneous	14	5	36%	50%
Biscuits & Cakes	9	3	33%	62%
Dried Products	8	3	37%	77%
Pies	8	2	25%	NA
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>30.42%</b>	<b>51.5%</b>

### **Test Results**

The following pages will investigate areas of non compliance for each of the product groups listed in the table above. As an entire project, the number of samples considered sub-standard was 108, or 30.42% of the 355 products submitted.

As a comparison, the Imported Foods project analysed 340 submissions. 175 of these were found to be Sub-Standard (51.5%). Column 5 in the Table above shows Sub-Standard numbers from the Imported Foods project as a comparison.

#### ***Sauces and Marinades***

A total number of 83 samples were submitted for this category. There was an extensive variety of products including mustards, chutneys, sweet chilli sauce, soy sauce, stir fry sauce, fish sauce and a selection of curry pastes. Of the products submitted, 26 or 31% were sub-standard. The break-down of non-compliance can be categorised as follows:

- Presentation of the NIP label: 5 samples had incorrect information on their NIP as follows:

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- 3 samples had no preservative (sorbic acid) listed on NIP label
  - 1 sample had no sulphur dioxide declared on NIP label
  - 1 sample had energy value incorrectly displayed on NIP label
  - 1 sample had carbohydrate value incorrectly displayed on NIP label
- Incorrect results: 26 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
    - 13 samples had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label
    - 4 samples had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label
    - 4 samples had significantly higher carbohydrates than was declared on the NIP label
    - 3 samples had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label
    - 3 samples had significantly higher energy than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (31) is more than the 26 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### ***Noodles and Rice***

A wide variety of noodles and rice samples were submitted. Of the 69 products submitted, 20 or 29% were sub-standard. The break-down of non-compliance can be categorised as follows:

- Presentation of the NIP label: 6 samples had incorrect information on their NIP as follows:
  - 3 samples had incorrect panel order on the NIP label
  - 2 samples had legibility issues on the NIP label
  - 2 samples had incorrect units used on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had incorrect allergen declaration on the NIP label
- Incorrect results: 20 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 13 samples had fat significantly higher than was declared on the NIP label
  - 4 samples had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label
  - 4 sample had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had significantly higher carbohydrates than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (30) is more than the 20 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### ***Jams and Fruit***

A total of 62 samples were submitted for this category. There was a range of fruit jams, marmalades, tinned fruits and dried fruit. Of the products submitted, 20 or 32% were sub-standard. The break-down of non-compliance can be categorised as follows:

- Presentation of the NIP label: 18 samples had incorrect information on their NIP as follows:
  - 7 samples did not conform with the Food Code for jam

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- 5 samples had no NIP panel submitted
  - 4 samples had NIP panel order incorrect
  - 2 samples had incorrect energy calculations
  - 1 sample had no ingredient list
- Incorrect results: 23 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
    - 10 samples had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label
    - 3 samples had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label
    - 3 samples had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label
    - 3 samples had significantly higher carbohydrates than was declared on the NIP label
    - 1 sample had significantly higher energy than was declared on the NIP label
    - 1 sample had significantly lower carbohydrates than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (41) is more than the 20 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### ***Meat and Fish***

This was a broad product mix with a total of 40 samples submitted. Of the products submitted, 11 or 22% were sub-standard. The break-down of non-compliance can be categorised as follows:

- Incorrect results: 11 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 5 samples had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label
  - 4 samples had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had substantially lower total meat content than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had substantially lower iron content than was declared on the NIP label

### ***Cheeses and Dairy***

A total of 34 cheese and dairy products were submitted for this survey. The range included feta, ricotta, cottage, vintage, flavoured cheddars and a variety of specialised cheeses. Of the products submitted, 13 or 38% were deemed to be substandard as follows:

- Presentation of the NIP Label: 8 samples had incorrect information on their NIP as follows:
  - 4 samples had unusually low fat values on the NIP label
  - 2 samples had incorrect units on the NIP label
  - 2 samples had no NIP label
- Incorrect results: 13 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 6 samples had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label
  - 6 samples had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label

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- 2 samples had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (21) is more than the 13 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### ***Ready to Eat Meals (RTEM)***

A total of 28 ready to eat meals (RTEM) were submitted for this survey. Of the products submitted, 5 or 18% were deemed to be substandard as follows:

- Incorrect results: 5 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 5 samples had significantly lower total meat content than was declared on the NIP label
  - 2 samples had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (7) is more than the 5 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### ***Miscellaneous***

A total of 14 samples fell into this category as they did not fall easily into any of the other categories. These samples were muesli, ginger, cracker mix, beef jerky, polenta, puffed corn, tempura batter, flavoured make a shakes. Of the products submitted, 5 or 36% were deemed to be substandard as follows:

- Presentation of the NIP label: 2 samples had incorrect information on their NIP as follows:
  - 1 sample had columns in an incorrect order on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had no preservatives stated on the NIP label
- Incorrect results: 5 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 1 sample had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had significantly higher protein than was declared on the NIP label
  - 3 samples contained higher levels of Benzoic acid than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (7) is more than the 5 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### ***Biscuits and Cakes***

A total of 9 biscuit and cake samples were submitted. Of the products submitted, 3 or 33% were deemed to be substandard as follows:

- Incorrect results: 3 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 2 samples had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 sample had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (4) is more than the 3 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

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### **Dried Products**

A total of 8 dried products were submitted for this survey. The majority were mixed nut samples, but there were also samples of rolled oats and spice. Of the products submitted, 3 or 37% were deemed to be substandard as follows:

- Presentation of the NIP label: 1 samples had incorrect information on their NIP label as follows:
  - 1 sample had an incorrect energy calculation
- Incorrect results: 3 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 1 sample had significantly lower protein than was declared on the NIP label
  - 2 samples had significantly higher fat than was declared on the NIP label
  - 1 samples had significantly higher sodium than was declared on the NIP label

The total number of errors (5) is more than the 3 sub-standard products due to some samples being non-compliant in more than one category.

### **Pies**

A total of 8 pies were submitted for this survey. Of the products submitted, 2 or 25% were deemed to be substandard as follows:

- Incorrect results: 2 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
  - 2 samples had the incorrect meat content on the NIP label

### **Summary & Recommendations**

This co-ordinated sampling project was well supported by Local Government and was one of the most informative projects conducted recently due to the presence of nutritional information on most products. Investigations suggest the reason the project was well supported was twofold: Firstly EHOs saw value in the CSP and in comparing local goods with imported food products; Secondly, EHOs were given significant guidance by LHAAC in terms of the products they should be selecting for analysis.

The two graphs on the following page depict the errors pictorially for the laboratory analysis comparison.

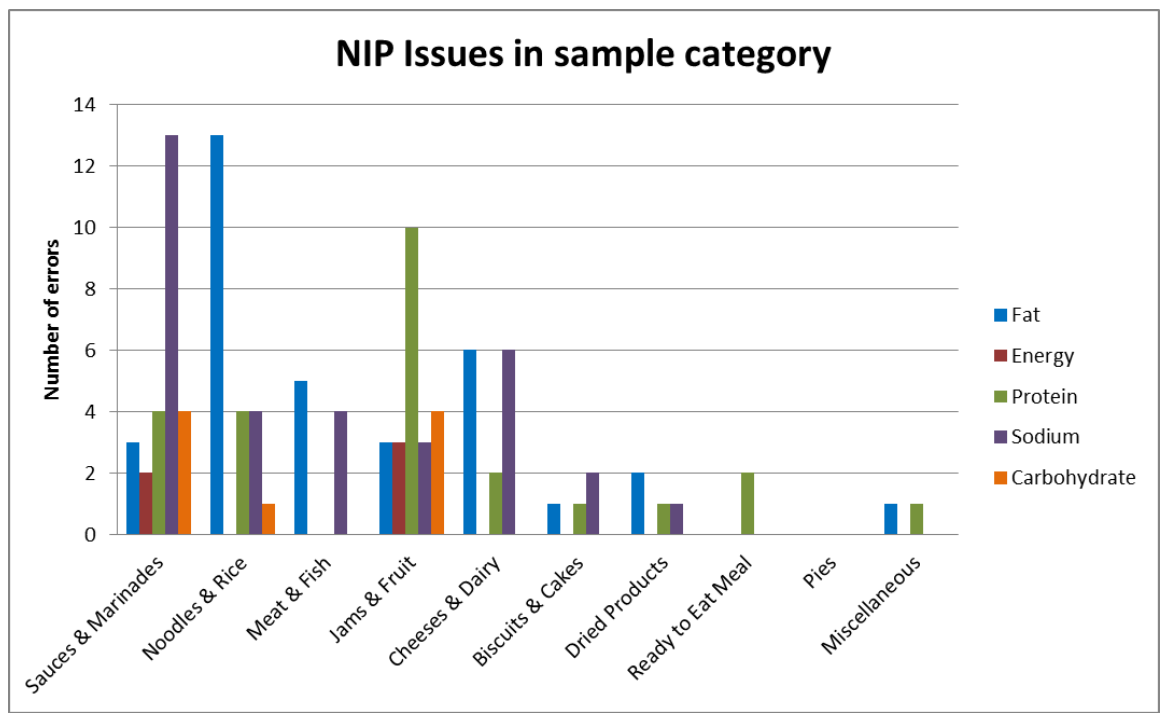
It is recommended that the results of this analysis be considered when determining future co-ordinated sampling projects.

### **Acknowledgement**

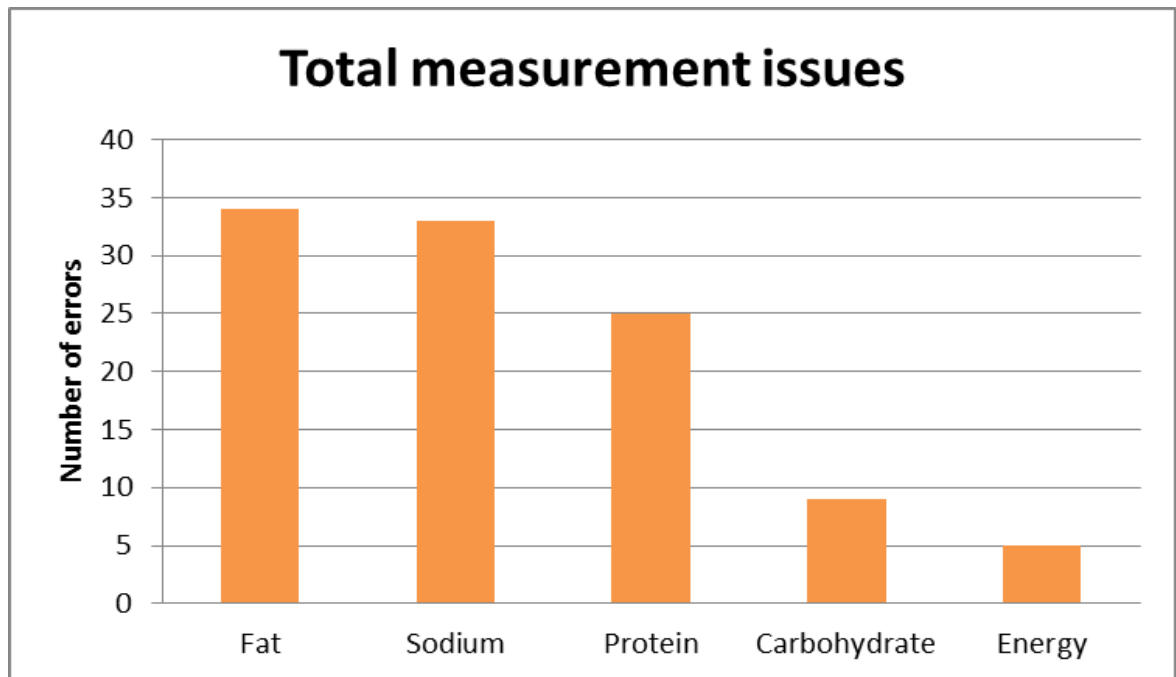
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LHAAC also acknowledge and thank the participating Local Governments who provided sample submissions to this project.

This report contains information considered confidential by Australian Wool Testing Authority Ltd (AWTA) and is provided by AWTA for use by the LHAAC only.



Graph 1 shows number of errors in each major NIP component by sample category



Graph 2 shows total number of measurement issues per major NIP component

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**Appendix 1: Number of Samples submitted by participating Local Councils**

<b>Council</b>	<b>Number of Samples</b>
Albany	17
Armadale	7
Bayswater	20
Belmont	11
Bunbury	16
Busselton	12
Canning	11
Capel	13
Cockburn	20
Exmouth	4
Harvey	14
Joondalup	17
Kalamunda	12
Kwinana	10
Mandurah	15
Melville	17
Mundaring	15
Perth	9
Port Hedland	2
Rockingham	22
Roebourne	15
Serpentine/Jarrahdale	15
Subiaco	15
Swan	15
Victoria Park	4
Vincent	22
Wanneroo	5
<b>27</b>	<b>355</b>