



LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY ANALYTICAL COMMITTEE

COORDINATED SAMPLING PROJECT 12 - JAM

(Conducted March - May 2014)

Introduction

This report summarises the findings from the LHAAC Co-ordinated Sampling Project 12 on Jam products. The CSP targeted jam producers and manufacturers in the LGA's locality, along with some Local Governments being asked to collect samples of national and imported jams from supermarkets and retail outlets. The project focussed on jam product (as distinct from preserves and spreads) in order that the product could be checked against Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code specifications.

Consignment Details

At the end of the survey, 80 samples had been submitted by 17 participating municipalities.

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

Disclosure

This survey sought to examine a variety of jam products from a broad range of manufacturers to determine the level of consistency and accuracy between the disclosed product information and actual results of analysis. The survey also checked adherence to specific food product standards specified in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (The Code). In many instances only one sample of a specific product was taken so results could vary slightly over a larger sample size.

Testing Methodology

AgriFood Technology and ChemCentre looked at the following areas when assessing each sample.

1. The Nutritional Information Panel (NIP) - where NIP information was provided on the product, or by the producer.
2. The food label was checked for content, the calculations used, formatting and also legibility (font size, language etc.)
3. Samples of Jam were also assessed in accordance with the Food Standard Code Standard 2.3.2 for jam and related produce.

Test Results

The following pages summarise inconsistent results for products collected at each of the vendors (listed in **Appendix 2**). Local Government EHOs collected various products from the three largest supermarket groups, and these products originated from many different manufacturers, including the supermarket's own brand. Products were also collected from a range of independent suppliers/producers and some of the 'boutique' style outlets (such as wineries and gift shops).

The number of samples considered inconsistent across the range collected was 34 (43%) of the 80 products submitted.

NOTE:

A sample is considered inconsistent when the chemical analysis results for a nutrient differ from the nutrient content on the product NIP by greater/less than 20% or a sample contravenes product standards specified in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

Coles Outlets

Of the 2 products collected, there were no samples which were inconsistent. The products were spreads and therefore do not need to meet requirements of the Food Standard Coded 2.3.2 pertaining to Jams.

IGA Outlets

Of the 9 products collected, 5 (55%) were inconsistent. The breakdown of inconsistent can be categorised as follows:

- 4 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
 - 4 samples had significantly higher sodium than declared on the NIP
 - 2 samples had significantly higher energy content than declared on the NIP
 - 2 samples had significantly lower water-soluble solids than the requirement specified in the Food Standards Code Section 2.3.2

The total number of errors (8) is more than the 5 inconsistent results due to some samples being inconsistent in more than one category.

Woolworths Outlets

Of the 13 products collected, 4 (31%) were inconsistent. The breakdown of inconsistent can be categorised as follows:

- 3 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
 - 1 sample had significantly higher sodium than declared on the NIP
 - 2 samples had significantly higher carbohydrate content to that declared on the NIP
- 1 sample had significantly lower water-soluble solids than the requirement specified in the Food Standards Code Section 2.3.2

Independent Producers/Manufacturers

A total of 48 jams from a variety of producers and manufacturers were collected for this survey. Of the products collected, 21 (44%) were deemed to be inconsistent. Four of the samples were classified to be inconsistent due to problems with the percentage of water-soluble solids. The breakdown of inconsistent can be categorised as follows:

- 21 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
 - 14 samples had significantly higher carbohydrate content than declared on the NIP
 - 10 samples had significantly higher energy content than declared on the NIP
 - 4 samples had significantly higher sodium content than declared on the NIP
 - 2 samples had significantly lower protein content than declared on the NIP
 - 4 samples had significantly lower water-soluble solids than the requirement specified in the Food Standards Code Section 2.3.2
 - 2 samples did not meet the fruit content requirement as specified in the Food Standards Code Section 2.3.2

The total number of errors (36) is more than the 21 inconsistent products due to some samples being inconsistent in more than one category.

Boutique/Vineyards

Of the 8 products collected, 4 (50%) were inconsistent. The breakdown of inconsistent can be categorised as follows:

- 4 samples had information on their product that was inconsistent with laboratory analysis, as follows:
 - 3 samples had significantly higher energy content than declared on the NIP
 - 2 samples had significantly higher carbohydrate content than declared on the NIP
 - 1 sample had significantly higher sodium content than declared on the NIP

The total number of errors (6) is more than the 4 inconsistent products due to some samples being inconsistent in more than one category.

NOTE:

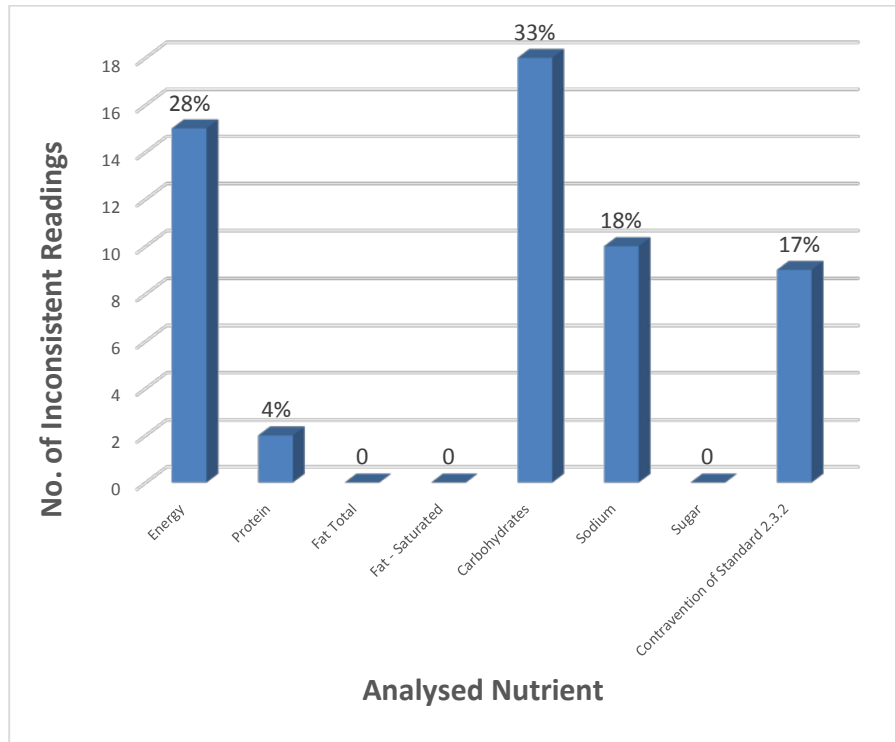
A graph showing variations between the product NIP information and LHAAC analysis (by nutrient) is shown at **Graph 1**.

Observations

1. The number of inconsistent samples (43%) is still regarded as high, with the majority classified as such due to inconsistencies in the results of LHAAC analysis when compared to declared information on the product NIP.
2. There were nine (9) incidences of contravention of Food Standards Code Standard 2.3.2 concerning the production of jam.
3. The slightly lower level of inconsistent results from major supermarket chains Coles and Woolworths, where a greater proportion of national or multi-national product was collected for analysis, may suggest a greater accuracy in the preparation of declared NIP data for these products as against the more independent produce.

Further analysis

Agrifood Technology and ChemCentre are both able to provide further testing and data analysis to LHAAC should this be required.



Graph 1 – Variations between the product's NIP or FSC requirements and actual test results

Appendix 1: Number of Samples submitted by participating Local Councils

Council	Number of Samples
Albany	15
Augusta Margaret River	5
Belmont	1
Broome	1
Bunbury	4
Busselton	3
Capel	8
Canning	6
Cockburn	4
Fremantle	3
Gosnells	3
Harvey	7
Joondalup	5
Kwinana	6
Melville	4
Plantagenet	1
Rockingham	4
TOTAL	80

Appendix 2: Samples by Vendor

Product	No. of Samples
Coles	2
IGA	9
Woolworths	13
Independent Producers/Manufacturers	48
Boutiques/Vineyards	8