

From: [Media](#)
To: "[Esther Han](#)"; [Media](#)
Subject: RE: FW: Proposed different approach [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 14 June 2017 2:49:56 PM
Attachments: [~WRD136.jpg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

The needle-like shape of particles is unlikely to present a significant hazard given they are likely to dissolve in the stomach. Any safety issues would be related to the constituent components, in this case calcium and phosphate. These are considered beneficial and required to be added to infant formula.

From: Esther Han [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:16 PM

To: Media

Subject: Re: FW: Proposed different approach [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Thanks Lorraine, confirming I've received FSANZ's response.

It's really interesting that it doesn't once refer to "needle-like nano hydroxyapatite", which I referred to dozens of times in my media request.

Esther

Esther Han
Consumer Affairs Editor
The Sydney Morning Herald | The Sun-Herald
1 Darling Island Road, Pyrmont, New South Wales, 2009
[REDACTED]



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On 14 June 2017 at 13:11, Media <Media@foodstandards.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Esther

We have provided a statement below. FSANZ is concerned that an extremely vulnerable section of the community will be unnecessarily scared by this work and we therefore would appreciate balanced reporting on this issue.

FSANZ statement in response to nanoparticle detection in infant formula

FSANZ scientists (along with experts who make up an expert advisory group on nanotechnology) have examined the data provided in the PowerPoint. The findings do not contain any new information to suggest that these products might pose a public health and safety risk.

FSANZ takes concerns about food safety extremely seriously. FSANZ does not believe that there is a risk to infant health and safety.

Hydroxyapatite is a mineral. It is a natural component of bone and teeth. It is a source of calcium and phosphate, and small amounts in food are likely to readily dissolve in the stomach to release these minerals which are beneficial when absorbed. Both calcium and phosphate are required to be in infant formula as nutritive substances.

The presence of a substance in food (regardless of size), that is not in the additive schedule, does not mean there is a safety concern. Particles (nanoscale or otherwise) could be present in food unintentionally as a result of food processing techniques.

Nanoparticles also occur naturally and can be found in foods.

The EC Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) opinion on hydroxyapatite considered that the information provided by applicants was insufficient to draw a conclusion on safety when used in oral cosmetic products (e.g. toothpaste, whiteners, mouth washes) at levels of up to 10%. In reaching this conclusion, the SCCS noted that the hydroxyapatite materials under consideration could not clearly be related to the data submitted.

The SCCS report is considered of limited relevance to the detection of trace amounts of hydroxyapatite in the FoE-commissioned study of infant formula.
Several of your questions relate to enforcement and compliance. FSANZ is not an enforcement agency and does not have the power under its legislation to initiate a recall.

Lorraine Haase

Manager

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

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