



**FOOD** STANDARDS  
Australia New Zealand  
Te Mana Kounga Kai – Ahitereiria me Aotearoa

# PFAS and Fruit

October 2017

- In 2017 FSANZ provided a report to the Commonwealth Department of Health on health-based guidance values for PFAS chemicals.
- As part of its assessment FSANZ received information on fruit and vegetables from home gardens in contaminated areas (Williamstown and Oakey).
- There were no detections of PFAS chemicals in any of the fruits sampled—berries and other small fruit (strawberries), citrus fruit (lime, orange, mandarin and lemon), pome fruit (apple) and tropical fruit – edible peel (olives). Mangoes were not included but there is no reason that they would be any different.
- The data indicates that the concentration of PFAS in the water used to grow these crops will not reflect the concentration in the final fruit.
- There is very little data on the occurrence of PFAS in the general food supply; however previous work carried out by FSANZ indicates that dietary exposure to PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS from the general food supply is likely to be low.
- While there was insufficient data to recommend a regulatory approach and set maximum limits in the Food Standards Code, FSANZ proposed trigger points (concentration values) for investigation for PFOS + PFHxS combined and PFOA.
- These points are intended to be used by state and territory food jurisdictions when analysing PFAS in foods to identify when further investigation may be required at contaminated sites.
- The trigger point recommended for all fruit was 0.6 micrograms per kilogram or the limit of detection (whichever is higher) for PFOS and for PFOS plus PFHxS combined. For PFOA it is 5.1 micrograms per kilogram. These are highly conservative values based on total fruit consumption and are suitable to apply to mangoes. The levels are protective of people who consume high amounts of fruit including children 2-6 years and everyone else.
- Recent testing data from the Department of Defence have also indicated that the level of PFAS for 2 mango samples taken from the Katherine contaminated area were below the trigger level for all fruit. Further sampling and analysis is currently underway.

The full FSANZ reports can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas-hbgv.htm>