

SAMPA

South African Meat Processors Association

08 July 2016

ATT: All Members

SODIUM REDUCTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT STATUS

The amendment to the Sodium Reduction Legislation R.214, contemplated as early as November 2015, will be promulgated for comment within the next two weeks.

This amendment will firstly correct the SANS885 classes between Cured and Uncured processed meats which were transposed in the original legislation, and secondly increase the maximum allowable sodium levels to 1300mg from the 950mg in the original legislation.

Industry, together with other stakeholder bodies motivated to the DoH on a fact based basis, that the reduction in Sodium levels in processed meats would bring about another potential public health issue due to the preservative nature of salt. The curtailment of shelf life as a result of reduced salt levels might have led to food poisoning in some cases. This was concurred with and on that basis the amendment contemplated.

In the interim, while industry is waiting for this amendment to be published, should there be a query from the press in this regard, then the press may be referred to Professor Freeman at DoH who will ratify this position.

Industry has been working towards this widely circulated amendment and therefore it will be expected of industry that, effective 1st July 2016 all product will comply with the maximum 1300mg sodium levels.

There will not be a time given to reformulate to 1300mg in the amendment and therefore industry is advised to ensure product compliance to the 1300mg levels effective 1st July 2016.

SAMPA preferred laboratories are also participating in an Inter-laboratory Salt Analysis test given variations in results from sodium tests. Should you wish your laboratory to be involved in this test please contact Nadine Naylor.

Al Cocks (President), T Sachse (Vice-President), N de Klerk, A Rossouw, M Wyma, W de Jager

Tel no : +27 11 840 4600 (President) Cell: +27 (83) 600 0522 (President) : +27 (82) 786 3650 (GM)
E-mails: andrew.cocks@tigerbrands.com manager@savam.co.za