

**Further information for VITAL<sup>®</sup> Online Users on the update from version 2.2.25 (previous version) to version 2.2.26 (updated version)**

On Monday 27 March 2017 at 1:00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (2:00 am same day UTC), VITAL Online will be updated from v2.2.25 (previous version) to v2.2.26 (updated version).

Each recipe will be required to be updated and this is done by a single click. Recipes must be updated prior to being edited. For information on how to update a recipe, see this Helpful Hint. <http://allergenbureau.net/update-recipe-function/>

Further details and Q&A's for these changes are listed below:

- [VITAL Online Australia and New Zealand legislation - change to allergen names & definitions](#)
- [Addition of European Union legislation](#)
- [Legislation access control](#)
- [Summary reports have been edited](#)

## **VITAL Online Australia and New Zealand legislation - change to allergen names & definitions**

### **Q. How have the allergen names and definitions in VITAL Online changed?**

A. The names of the allergens listed in the Australia and New Zealand legislation have been reviewed to reflect how these allergens are commonly referenced in Summary and Precautionary Allergen statements on food labels. The allergen names changed are: 'Finfish' to 'Fish'; and 'Eggs' to 'Egg'. It should be noted that there is no change to the Reference Dose, the supporting science or by the regulator to the legislation for these allergens.

The definitions for each allergen in the Australia and New Zealand legislation have also been reviewed to ensure that they more closely reflect the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and to refer to exemptions to the mandatory declaration of allergens where they may apply. Key changes include:

- 'Cereal containing gluten' and 'Tree nuts'. Definitions included for parent allergens.
- 'Fish' definition updated to exclude explicit reference to isinglass labelling exemption. 'Fish' definition now includes the new statement 'Regulatory exemptions apply - record these in Assumptions'.
- 'Cereals containing gluten' sub-allergens (e.g. Barley, Oats, Rye, Spelt, Wheat); Milk; and Soy definitions updated to include the new statement 'Regulatory exemptions apply - record these in Assumptions'.

Users of the VITAL Program should refer to [Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code](#) – Standard 1.2.3-4 Mandatory declaration of certain foods or substances in food for full details of exemptions from mandatory declaration. For information on how to record exemptions from mandatory labelling, see this [VITAL Online Helpful Hint - Recording exemptions from mandatory labelling](#).

## Addition of European Union legislation

### **Q. What allergens have been included in the European Union legislation which has been added to VITAL Online?**

A. The European Union legislation has been added to VITAL Online. Either Australia & New Zealand or European Union legislation can now be applied when creating recipes and other items in VITAL Online. The European Union legislation in VITAL Online includes the mandatory allergens which are listed in the Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 and includes the provisions from Commission Delegated Regulation No 78/2014 of 22 Nov 2013.

### **Q. Why are sulphites absent from the European Union legislation in VITAL Online?**

A. The Allergen Bureau has not found an appropriate solution for including sulphites in VITAL Online. As sulphites can be created or destroyed during processing, summing the sulphites from the ingredients will not meet the requirements of the legislation for the mandatory labelling of sulphites.

### **Q. Why is celery listed as “celery/celeriac”?**

A. The Allergen Bureau received feedback from the stakeholder group that in practice, celeriac and celery are viewed similarly with regard to allergen status.

### **Q. Why isn't there a Reference Dose for celery/celeriac or molluscs in VITAL Online?**

A. Allergens for which there is no Reference Dose (e.g. celery/celeriac and molluscs) can have information recorded about whether they are present (intentionally added, particulate cross contact or a concentration of readily dispersible cross contact). This will be reflected in the summary from the VITAL Online assessment of a product (or ingredient) in the report. However, no labelling outcome will be provided where the allergen is present as a readily dispersible cross contact allergen.

The VITAL Scientific Expert Panel (VSEP) will continue to review the available data for allergens for which there is no Reference Dose and advise the Allergen Bureau when a Reference Dose can be ascertained.

### **Q. How can I access the European Union legislation in VITAL Online?**

A. The VITAL Online Account Owner for each organisation controls default legislation and User access to legislation. For information on how to manage and use multiple legislation, see this [VITAL Online Helpful Hint - Managing and using multiple legislation](#).

### **Q. How can I apply the European Union legislation in VITAL Online?**

A. The European Union legislation can be used to

- Create a VITAL Action Level grid
- Assess a recipe
- Store ingredient and processing profile allergen information

The EU legislation can be selected (from a dropdown menu) when creating an ingredient, processing profile or recipe during Step 1 of creating the item.

**Q. Can I copy a recipe, ingredient or processing profile from one legislation into another?**

A. It is important to note that each legislation has different allergens and allergen definitions, including different exemptions from mandatory labelling. Recipes, ingredients and processing profiles cannot be copied from one legislation to another as they contain different allergens. When creating a recipe under a particular legislation then only ingredients and processing profiles from the same legislation can be used as inputs.

**Q. What information do I need to use VITAL Online?**

A. There is a lot of guidance available at <http://allergenbureau.net/VITAL/>. This includes information on how to use VITAL Online, the [VITAL Guide](#) and VITAL Training Providers who are endorsed to deliver training in the VITAL Program.

A free, one month trial of VITAL Online is available.

**Q. Who do I contact if I have any questions or issues?**

A. The Allergen Bureau welcomes your feedback via [info@allergenbureau.net](mailto:info@allergenbureau.net)

## Legislation access control

**Q. How is access to legislation controlled in VITAL Online?**

A. The VITAL Online Account Owner for each organisation controls default legislation and User access to legislation. For information on how to manage and use multiple legislation see this [VITAL Online Helpful Hint - Managing and using multiple legislation](#).

## Summary reports have been edited

**Q. What are the changes to the VITAL Online summary reports?**

A. VITAL Online summary reports for recipes have been updated to review the printed supporting information. There is no change to the content of the report with regard to the results from the product assessed.

Changes include:

- legislation used for the VITAL assessment added to the report
- information about exemptions from the declaration of mandatory allergens
- updated references for further information about the VITAL Program.