

PET FOOD TRADE PARTNERS WQA Category Requirements

Woolworths are proud of their products and have specific requirements for Trade Partners who supply Private Label Pet Food products (Shelf Stable or Chilled) to our supermarkets. The requirements support the WQA standard elements and Trade Partners are required to implement as part of the certification requirements. Woolworths Trade Partners as part of our trading terms are required to maintain compliance to all Government regulatory requirements related to the pet food industry.

SCOPE & WQA CERTIFICATION

All suppliers of Private Label Pet Food to Woolworths will be required to become certified to the Woolworths Quality Assurance Standard (WQA). The scope of the WQA system shall cover the product from primary production and processing, packaging, storage, distribution and delivery to Woolworths Supermarkets and Distribution Centres.

WQA Certification is product specific. If a Trade Partner requests to supply a new line to Woolworths which is outside the current scope of the certification then the documentation for the new product must be forwarded to the certification body for audit as per the WQA standard requirements.

PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

All Private Label Pet Food products must meet the requirements of the PFIAA Code of Practice (Pet Food Industry Association of Australia).

In addition to prescribed standards, the Trade Partner must identify any potential hazards, be they chemical, microbiological or physical, and have sufficient controls in place to ensure product safety is not compromised when stored in the conditions described within the specification for that product.

All products must meet the current regulations, both in the country of origin and the country where product is to be sold, including:

- PFIAA Code of Practise for the Manufacturing and Marketing of Pet Food
- If the Pet Food product is classed as a “Nutritionally Complete Pet Food” the product must comply with the requirements of the Relevant AAFCO Standard (American Association of Feed Control Officials).
- Regulation of Trades Weights and Measures and the ACCC – Country of Origin.

All products are to be free of plastic contaminants, glass, metal, dirt, grease and other extraneous material, including contamination from the packaging.



PRESCRIBED NAMES

Product names shall be in accordance with the Woolworths issued specifications and /or the Pet Food Industry Association of Australia (PFIAA) Code of Practice or the approved requirements of the Woolworths Business Team.

SPECIFICATIONS

Trade Partners shall ensure that a Woolworths Sample Submission Specification for Pet Food is accurately completed and kept on record for all Private Label Pet Food products supplied to Woolworths. Woolworth's specifications will be developed for Private Label Pet Food products and the Trade Partner shall ensure that product is supplied in accordance with these specifications. The Trade Partner shall ensure that they have a documented specification that details the product quality and food safety requirements in accordance with Woolworth's requirements.

LABELLING

Woolworths have prescribed labelling requirements for both retail and outer product packaging to ensure maximum traceability. Product Identification and Traceability of products is a significant requirement of the WQA Standard and a strong emphasis is placed on this aspect. Our customers have an expectation that we can provide a safe, quality product and if pet food safety is compromised, we as retailers need to be able to identify and trace product to its origin.

The outer package of product shall be labelled as a minimum with the following:

- Trade Partners name ,and address
- Product name
- Net weight
- Best Before / Use by Date code / batch code (Refer to Guideline 5 : Use By Date Coding)

All prepacked product shall be labelled in accordance with the requirements of the PFIAA Code of Practice.

PRODUCT ASSESSMENT

The Trade Partner shall ensure that they implement a product assessment program for all Private Label Pet Food products supplied to Woolworths. The program must ensure compliance of all products for product quality and food safety criteria as documented in the Woolworths Specifications and these WQA Requirements.



PRODUCT TESTING

All Pet Food Trade Partners shall ensure that they have product testing programs in place that ensures that products are in compliance with the PFIAA Code of Practice, the relevant AAFCO Standard and any other regulatory requirements. The frequency of product testing shall be established by the Trade Partner based on the risk of product and the volume supplied.

Any Marketing claims relating to Nutrition made on Private Label Pet Food Products supplied to Woolworths must be able to be substantiated and must be captured within the product analysis and have prior approval by Woolworths.

RETENTION SAMPLES

Retention samples shall be retained for all Woolworths Branded Pet Food lines supplied. Retention Samples shall be retained for the shelf life of the product under the recommended storage conditions. The number of samples retained shall be determined based on the volume of product supplied and risk associated; this shall be documented within the retention sample procedure.

