

Kilojoule Displays at Food Businesses

The information contained in this document is provided as a 'quick reference' guide. Businesses should refer to the legislation directly when making decisions around the implementation of kilojoule display requirements.

What is the purpose of kilojoule (kJ) displays?

Kilojoule displays (on menu boards, label tags, etc) provide consumers with information about the energy content of their food. Kilojoule displays may encourage consumers to make healthier food choices and promote dietary awareness. They may also encourage food businesses to reformulate foods into healthier options.

Kilojoule displays help to align the information available on non-packaged foods with that available on packaged foods (most packaged foods are required to have a Nutrition Information Panel that includes kilojoule, fat, sugar and sodium content information).

Which food businesses are required to display kilojoule information?

A number of aspects need to be considered when determining whether a business will need to display kilojoule information.

If...

- your food business sells [Standard Food Items](#); **and**
- your business is a [Standard Food Outlet](#); **and**
- your business is part of a chain/franchise/group that sells Standard Food Items at 7 or more places in the ACT or at 50 or more places in Australia;

then your business **is** required to display kilojoule information.

What is a 'Standard Food Item'?

Standard Food Items are items of ready-to-eat food that are sold in standardised servings. They may be listed or otherwise shown on a menu (e.g. picture display) or they may be displayed for sale with a tag or label (e.g. price tag, name tag, etc).

Prepacked serves of salad, sandwiches, pies or sushi that are prepared and packaged offsite and sold in the same packaging must comply with the labelling requirements for packaged foods.

What is a 'Standard Food Outlet'?

A food business is a Standard Food Outlet if:

- (a) the food business sells Standard Food Items at other premises or while operating in a chain of food businesses that sell Standard Food Items; and
- (b) at least one of the Standard Food Items sold by the business is also sold at another of its outlets or by other food businesses in the chain.

What is a 'chain' food business?

A food business is considered to be operating in a chain of food businesses that sell Standard Food Items if:

- (a) it is operating as one of a group of food businesses that sell Standard Food Items under franchise arrangements with a parent business or under common ownership or control; or
- (b) it sells Standard Food Items under the same trading name as a group of other food businesses that sell Standard Food Items.

What is my business required to do?

If your business is captured under the laws, you need to ensure that you display the average kilojoule content of each of your Standard Food Items in accordance with the [Food Regulation 2002](#). You also need to display the following statement in one location on each menu board and food display cabinet/stand:

'The average adult daily energy intake is 8,700kJ.'

How must the information be displayed?

When displaying the nutritional information, it must be:

- clearly legible;
- expressed in 'kJ' (kilojoule is used in the legislation instead of calories because it is the internationally accepted metric unit of measurement for energy);
- in the same font, and at least the same font size, as the price (or if no price is displayed, the same font/size as the name of the item);
- adjacent to, or in close proximity to, the name or price of the item.

If Standard Food Items are displayed on the menu and a tag, the average kilojoule content needs to be displayed on both the menu and the tag.

How do I work out the kilojoule content of my Standard Food Items?

The average energy content (in kilojoules) of a Standard Food Item is to be worked out in accordance with Standard 1.2.8 of the [Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code](#). You will need to make the necessary adjustments to ensure that the calculation is done in relation to the whole of the Standard Food Item rather than per 100g. The number of kilojoules calculated may be rounded to the nearest 10 kJ.

There are numerous methods for calculating the average kJ content including the online [Nutrition Panel Calculator](#) developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

Where can I get more information on the kilojoule display laws?

The Health Protection Service (HPS) enforces the kilojoule display laws and can provide advice on the laws to businesses and consumers. Information is provided on the [Kilojoule Displays](#) web page.

The HPS has developed a more comprehensive guide to kilojoule display laws, the [Kilojoule Display User Guide for ACT Food Businesses: Nutrition labelling for standard food items](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the HPS by phone on (02) 5124 9700 or by email at hps@act.gov.au.

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