



**Dialogue on Risk Management in Wine Trade**

5-6 November, 2012 - Auckland, New Zealand

# Risk Assessment & Management

*Managing Risks through Regulation*

**Steve McCutcheon**

Chief Executive officer

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

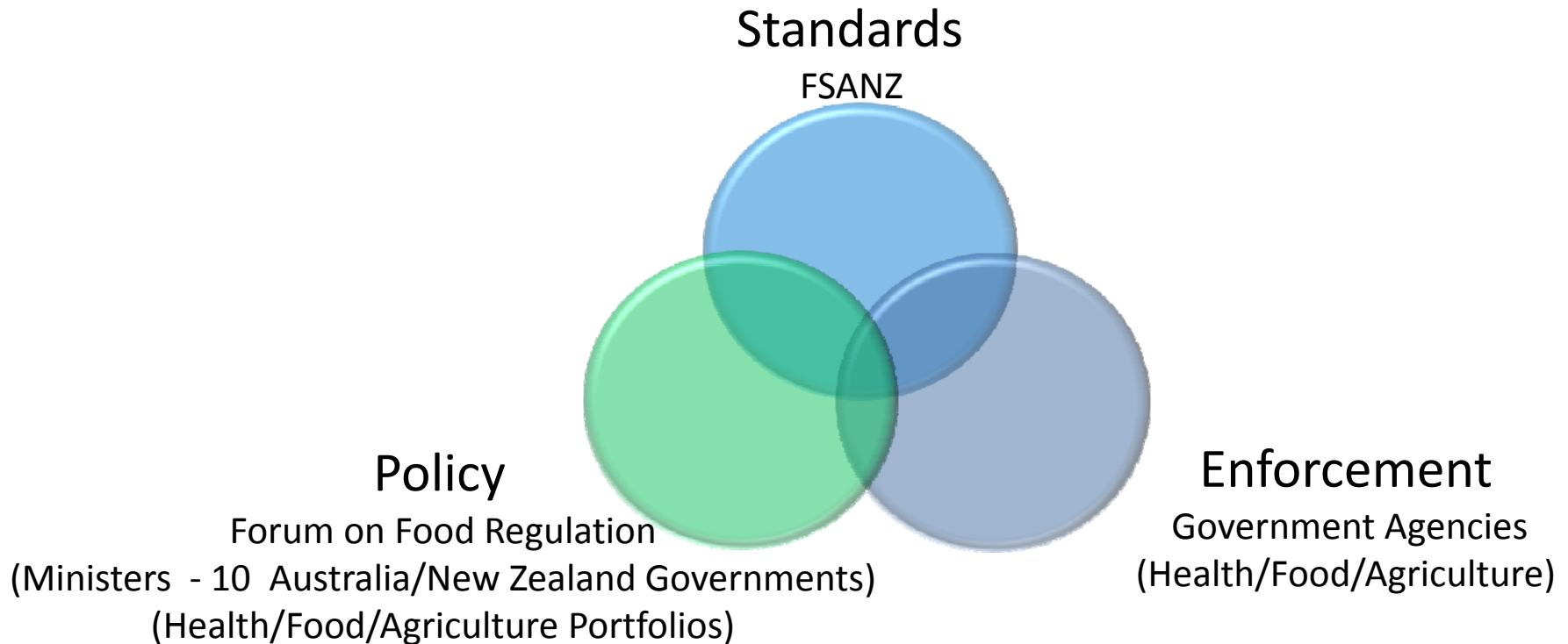


## Contextual Background

- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
  - bi-national, trans-Tasman agency
  - primary objective of protecting public health and safety (ie. **food-related health risks**)
  - standards developed by FSANZ become regulatory measures
  - FSANZ is a small 'r' regulator



# Australia New Zealand Food Regulatory Framework





## General Approaches to Food–Related Health Risk Analysis

- Recognising traditional foods and production methods
- Assessing new foods, additions to food and new production methods
- Taking a whole-of-chain view to food production
- Recognising and balancing risks and benefits
- Maintaining vigilance of the food supply





## Addressing Food-Related Health Risks

- Risk analysis (the Codex model)
  - risk assessment (science based)
  - **risk management (policy based)**
  - risk communication (interactive exchange of information and opinions regarding risk)





## Underlying Principles for the Analysis of Food–Related Health Risks

- Use the best available data and methodologies
- Recognise uncertainty in risk analysis
- Tailor the risk management approach to the risk
- Involve interested and affected groups
- Communicate in an open and transparent manner
- Review the regulatory response



# Options for Managing Food-Related Health Risks

- Regulatory Measures
  - end-product standards
  - outcome-based standards
  - regulatory codes of practice
- Non-Regulatory Measures
  - non-regulatory codes of practice
  - guidelines and protocols
  - consumer information and advice



## Factors Influencing the Development of Regulatory Measures (Food Standards)

- Human health issues- risks and benefits
- Consumer issues
- Economic issues
- Government and International Agreements





## The Final Decision – to regulate or not?

### Key considerations

- severity of the health risk
- probability of occurrence
- number of individuals affected
- anticipated effectiveness of regulatory measures
- (food safety emergencies)





## Conclusion

- Managing food-related health risks is a shared responsibility.
  - regulation alone rarely works in isolation
- Risk analysis framework critical to ensuring there is a structured approach to developing and implementing risk management approaches
  - regulation must be evidence-based
  - regulatory measures must be regularly reviewed

