



## Sunbeam Foods Pty Ltd

### Action Plan

## Australian Packaging Covenant

### Duration: 5 Years

*November 2010 – October 2015*

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## 1. OVERVIEW:

The National Packaging Covenant (NPC) was replaced by the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) on 1 July 2010. The APC is designed to minimise the environmental impacts arising from the disposal of used packaging, conserve resources through better design and production processes and facilitate the re-use and recycling of used packaging materials.

Sunbeam Foods is a 'brand owner' and 'packaging user' in the supply chain. Sunbeam Foods is an unlisted public company based in Irymple, Victoria with fruit packaging plants in Irymple, (VIC.), Renmark (S.A.) and Angaston (S.A.). SUNBEAM FOODS markets an array of Dried Fruit products both domestically and internationally. We specialise in dried vine fruit, tree fruits and a range of natural nuts, which encompasses: Sultanas, Raisins, Currants, Mixed Fruit, Apricots, Prunes, Peaches, Pears, a selection of natural Nuts, and other niche varieties. These products are marketed principally under the “Sunbeam” and “Angas Park” brands. All of our goods are available in varying sizes from 40g to 14.0kg and 750kg pallets to cater for a variety of forms ranging from Retail Branded consumer packs, through to Bulk Industrial and Foodservice products. The majority of Sunbeam Foods product packaging consists of Cardboard Shippers, Cardboard Display Boxes, Cartonboard Packets, and Plastics such as low and high-density polyethylene (LDPE and HDPE) and polypropylene (PP).

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is the Action Plan for 2010- 2015 and reflects Sunbeam Foods ongoing commitment to reduce the amount of packaging used to package its products, as well as moving to reduce its use of non recyclable packaging materials. In accordance with the requirements of the Australian Packaging Covenant, Sunbeam Foods will continue to seek new and better options within the business with quantifiable outcomes in reducing packaging impacts and moving forward towards a more sustainable organisation through the implementation of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPG) through formal, documented processes. This Action Plan addresses the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) requirements in the APC, which covers Design, Recycling and Product Stewardship, and also incorporates existing actions from the previous plan carried forward that we will continue to address into the future. The purpose of this plan is to support efforts to conserve resources and reduce the environmental burden arising from excessive wastes throughout the supply chain through removing unnecessary packaging on existing and new products lines, as well as reducing the amount of packaging sold as a % of total food mass sold. This Action Plan is also designed to effectively and efficiently manage waste programs that are in place at each site to ensure appropriate disposal through the waste streams.

Some key highlights will include:

- implement the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for design and procurement of packaging
- communicate the APC and its Action Plan to relevant employees
- where possible reduce and/or eliminate packaging, whilst still maintaining the product protection, safety, hygiene and shelf life of the product
- identify and reduce packaging litter associated with our products
- work with our suppliers and other signatories of the APC to reduce the environmental impacts of our packaging

### 3. CONTACT DETAILS:

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### 4. PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP: (Refer to Action Plan Summary)

The Covenant is based on the principle of product stewardship. “Product stewardship” means the ethic of shared responsibility through the lifecycle of products including the environmental impact of the product through to, and including, its ultimate disposal. Product Stewardship is based on the recognition that each participant in the packaging supply chain from design through to material extraction, manufacture, distribution, retail, consumption and recovery or disposal has a responsibility for the product’s overall environmental impact and a linked obligation to minimise that impact. On this principal, all members in the supply chain of the specific product share responsibility at different stages of the product life cycle. Following are some product stewardship issues that will be addressed during 2010-2015.

**4.1 Design** - In designing packaging, careful consideration will be given to its possible effect on the environment from manufacture to end user aswell as to its recovery (including re-use and recycling) and/or final disposal. This will include disposal symbols to be incorporated into designs when art reviews are taking place. All pre-printed Outer Cartons will be designed to include the recyclable logo due to carton artwork reviews that are being completed for all sites, which we will continue to include for all pre-printed carton new designs. All marketing aspects will be considered and will always strive to use the minimal additional materials, which is required to protect the product in terms of health, safety, nutrition and appearance. We will continue to work with packaging manufactures to consciously consider all aspects of product packaging under the ideals of the APC and objectives in view of reducing and/or eliminating packaging materials, aswell as incorporating recycled materials into the designs where practical, whilst still maintaining the product protection, safety, hygiene and shelf life of the product. The key questions to consider is

- *is it necessary?*
- *if it is, has only the minimum needed to add value/appearance been applied?*
- *is it environmentally friendly?*
- *is it recyclable?*

**4.2 Production** - Packaging will be manufactured to minimise the amount of material essential to guarantee the protection, safety and hygiene and shelf life of the product. Communicate Sunbeam Foods commitment to the APC and its objectives to all own brand suppliers.

**4.3 Distribution** - The planning and control of the flow of goods and materials will be designed so as to reduce material and energy consumption to optimum levels whilst still maintaining product quality. Opportunities have been investigated to increase pallet capacity for a selected range of

products, however, this was trialled and was deemed not feasible without compromising product integrity. Further work is to be investigated for other opportunities that may exist to improve transport efficiency.

**4.4 Disposal** -Packaging should be designed to facilitate its safe and easy disposal by consumers when it reaches the end of its shelf life. Disposal includes re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery to minimise adverse environmental impacts. At each manufacturing site, waste management programs are in place at each site to ensure appropriate disposal through the waste streams. Audits will be conducted for off site waste streams for all sites and reported in the APC annual reports.

## **5. Sustainable Packaging:**

Sustainable packaging is packaging that is fit for purpose, resource efficient, made from low-impact materials, and reusable or recyclable at the end of its useful lifecycle.

**5.1.1 Fit for Purpose:** is packaging designs that should meet the market and consumer needs, while minimising the environmental impact in a cost effective way.

**5.1.2 Resource Efficiency:** Packaging should be designed to minimise the use of materials and other resources without compromising product quality and safety.

**5.1.3 Low-impact materials:** Packaging should be designed to minimise the environmental impact of materials and components. Materials should be selected on science and incorporate a whole-of-lifecycle approach.

**5.1.4 Resource recovery:** Packaging should be designed to maximise its potential for recovery and recycling and to minimise the environmental and social impacts of its disposal.

**5.2 Source Reduction-** Packaging should be minimised by using the optimal combination of primary, secondary and/or tertiary packaging, which includes eliminating unnecessary materials in packaging design, reducing the size, weight or thickness of packaging; and optimising void space within the design. Where packaging material is require to create a marketing appeal, materials should be minimised where possible, while still carrying out the required task.

**5.3 Potential to Re-use (including distribution)-** Considerations will be given to packaging materials that can be Re-used where practical in a safe and cost effective way. This is already a culture within the business, where raw materials and finished goods are supplied in bulk where possible, aswell as cartons that are re-used internally.

**5.4 Recover and recycle-** Encourage the use of recycled materials, including Bio degradable materials, with due consideration for food safety, protection, hygiene and shelf life of the product. This is already a practiced at each manufacturing site, where paper, cardboard and plastic materials are sent to recyclers from onsite collection facilities.

**5.5 Propensity to become litter-** Disposal instructions will be included in artwork for own brands.

5.6 Incorporation of recycle content- Tender agreements with our carton supplier has been set in place, where the recycled content is specified for all carton shippers. Wherever possible, the use of recycled material is encouraged. Products that contain part or all of the packaging that is not recyclable, are to be discussed with packaging manufacturers. Further work is to be conducted to investigate if there is any further opportunities to increase recycle content of carton shippers without compromising product integrity.

5.7 Market Development- Resources have been allocated to continue to keep in touch with our suppliers in relation to the most up-to-date developments with new technologies, which may enable either reduction of supply of raw materials, design changes to packaging materials, site infrastructure changes, or changes to manufacturing equipment allowing efficiency improvements.

5.8 Consumer Information- Accurate consumer information and labelling on packaging is important to encourage appropriate recycling and/or disposal. For Sunbeam and Angas Park Brands, this is to be considered when new art is designed or art reviews are underway.

## 6. ACTION PLAN SUMMARY:

### Goal 1: Packaging optimised to achieve resources efficiency and reduced environmental impact without compromising product quality and safety

KPI	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	BASELINE DATA	TARGET	EVIDENCE
1.Percentage of signatories in the supply chain implementing the SPG for design or procurement of packaging.	Establish APC team to review existing packaging against SPG	PM	August 2011	Team in early stage of formation.	Team Formally Established	Team Established
	APC team to determine appropriate 'group' categories by packaging supplier and manufacturing site for all existing and new products	APC Team	July 2012	No 'grouping' categories in place.	Group Categories by manufacturing site	Meeting Minutes  Grouping Categories on a central database
	Review NPD process and incorporate packaging review for all new packaging by 'group' via a packaging decision checklist (see appendix 1), which is consistent with the SPG.	APC Team	2015	Not started	100% reviewed and NPD procedure updated	NPD procedure updated to include SPG  Completed SPG Checklist

	<p>Need to establish a schedule for when individual packaging groups will be reviewed.</p> <p>Review all current packaging by 'group' against SPG checklist (see appendix 1)</p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> Where a new product development initiative or change to an existing product arises, the related packaging group will be considered for review at an earlier time wherever possible</p>	<p>APC Team</p>	<p>Dec, 2012</p>	<p>No timeline in place for each current category to be reviewed.</p> <p>No review in place</p>	<p>Timeline established by group for packaging reviews.</p> <p>50% by 2015. 10% reviewed annually</p>	<p>Packaging Review Schedule completed</p> <p>Completed Review Checklists</p>
	<p>Further work is to be conducted to investigated if there is any further opportunities to increase recycle content of carton shippers without compromising product integrity.</p>	<p>APC Team</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>Carton Shipper Specifications 'by group'.</p>	<p>Increase recycled content of carton shippers where possible</p>	<p>Review Notes</p>

**Goal 2. Recycling- the efficient collection and recycling of packaging**

KPI	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	BASELINE DATA	TARGET	EVIDENCE
3.Proportion of signatories with on-site recovery system for recycling used packaging	Audit waste streams at each site. Review and document existing recycling systems and identify improvements. Need to improve on existing baseline data.	PM (Irymple, Vic)  SF (Angaston, S.A)  PF (Renmark, S.A)	Ongoing progress to be reported annually	All of our manufacturing sites have processes in place to divert waste from landfill. Contracts are set in place at each site, ensuring both plastic, and paper/cardboard, waste are collected on a regular basis. In addition, all printer and photocopier cartridges are re-used internally where possible.	Recovery systems in place for waste streams.  Increase recycling of packaging materials where innovative solutions and new markets.	Review Notes  Ongoing progress to be reported annually  Contract & Receipts
	Correct recyclable disposal information to be included on the packaging while art changes are taking place.	APC Team	As required	Label reviews	Correct information on all products reviewed against the SPG.	Label Review Checklists  Artwork on file

<p>4. Buy recycled policy or procedure</p>	<p>To formally develop and adopt a purchasing policy that encourages that procurement of products made from recycled materials wherever practicable. Note- for relevant non-food contact materials.</p>	<p>APC Team</p>	<p>Jan 2012</p>	<p>No formal policy currently exists</p>	<p>Completed Policy</p>	<p>Policy</p>
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**Goal 3: Product Stewardship- demonstrated commitment to product stewardship by the supply chain and other signatories**

KPI	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	BASELINE DATA	TARGET	EVIDENCE
6.Proportion of signatories that have formal processes to work with others to improve design and recycling of packaging.  7. Percentage of signatories demonstrating other product stewardship outcomes for packaging.	Information to be shared on achievements and opportunities as well as the results of our review against the SPG with suppliers and other relevant parties. Explore cost effective solutions to avoid disposable packaging and seek innovative new opportunities to recover used packaging efficiently.	APC Team	6 monthly meetings with packaging suppliers for own brand products.	Some discussions already on SPG.	100% of Suppliers informed of our commitment to APC.  Innovative Solutions	Meeting Notes  Emails
	The policy (KPI 4) will include the commitment to: -work with others in the supply chain -review all packaging against the SPG.	APC Team	Jan 2012	No policy	Policy completed	Policy

<p>8. Reduction in the number of packaging items in the litter stream.</p>	<p>Include sustainable packaging and APC responsibilities in new product development role descriptions.</p>	<p>APC Team Leader &amp; Quality Manager</p>	<p>June 2012</p>	<p>Role descriptions do not include APC activities</p>	<p>Job Descriptions Updated</p>	<p>Job Descriptions</p>
	<p>Review current processes for working with others in the supply chain, identify improvements and document procedures for ongoing supplier and customer reviews to ensure activities are formalised and records maintained.</p>	<p>APC Team</p>	<p>Dec 2013</p>	<p>No formal documented procedure for working with suppliers and customers.</p>	<p>Documented procedure</p>	<p>Procedure</p>
	<p>Opportunities to reduce the number of items, aswell as inclusion of appropriate disposal symbols, will be considered during packaging reviews.</p>	<p>APC Team</p>	<p>Ongoing, report annually</p>	<p>Nothing has been assessed under SPG to date.</p>	<p>Reduce packaging waste  Labelling opportunities identified</p>	<p>Design outcomes documented</p>

## 7. APPENDIX 1. SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING GUIDELINE CHECKLIST:

Company:	Review Reference:	Date:	
Contact:		Contact Details:	
Design Strategy	How the strategy was considered / answers to key questions	If the answer to the design strategy questions are 'no', what alternatives have been investigated?	Documentary evidence available for auditors? If the answers are no, what alternatives have been investigated?
1. Minimise Materials (source reduction)			
2. Use recycled materials			
3. Design for transport			
4. Maximise water and energy efficiency			
5. Minimise risks associated with potentially toxic and hazardous materials			
6. Use renewable or recyclable materials			
7. Use materials from responsible suppliers			
8. Design for re-use			
9. Design for recovery			
10. Design for litter reduction			
11. Design for consumer accessibility			
12. Consumer Information			