

Bakels New Zealand

4th December 2018

Dear Bakels

I am writing on behalf of the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA). A number of our members have contacted us about one of your products: Bakels Colset.

I have consulted with our Dietitian New Zealand colleagues and agree with our members that the facts that Bakels advertises Colset with the following statement: "Hospitals use Colset with the addition of fruit juice for their patients who have difficulty swallowing" is misleading and unsafe.

<http://nzl.bakels.com/printpdf.aspx?id=http://192.168.201.3/productinfo/?id=92>

Although we are aware that this statement is in fact true, in that we have found a some small facilities using Colset in this way, it is an unsafe product for this vulnerable population and we would be very grateful if you could remove this statement from your product information.

We hope the information below is substantial enough to allow you to agree to this removal of the statement:

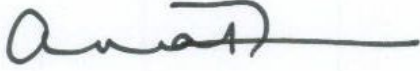
1. Colset is a starch-based thickener and ideal for jam making but as a thickener of drinks, it is unreliable. The thickness of the fluid varies widely at different temperatures e.g. cold water versus tea.
2. If the product is left to stand it continues to thicken, it doesn't maintain a consistent level of thickness over time.
3. The product is affected by the amylase enzyme in saliva, so once it is in contact with saliva it quickly breaks down to a thin fluid again. One of our health professional teams has made a demonstration video of this in action for staff training if you would like to see it.

For these three reasons, this is a safety risk and does not meet our international dysphagia diet standardisation requirements (www.iddsi.org).

4. In addition, 50% sugar content is also a major concern given that a substantial amount of Colset is needed to thicken a drink, (and then Bakels suggest adding it to fruit juice which already contains a lot of sugar). We have some populations where increased calories is not a bad thing, however for others high sugar will lead to tooth decay and weight gain and poor health outcomes.

We hope you are able to meet this request and look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Miles', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna Miles, PhD
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