

M&S

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MARKS AND SPENCER POLICY NANOTECHNOLOGY

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NANOTECHNOLOGY

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1. EXTERNAL POLICY STATEMENT

- We do not currently use nanotechnology in any of our foods or food packaging. However, we recognise that nanotechnology is an interesting new technology that may offer benefits for our customers
- Our priority is to offer products that our customers want - so we continue to listen closely to their views on a range of issues, including nanotechnology.
- We have a totally honest and transparent food policy, so if we were to ever use nanotechnology derived ingredients in our food we would make our customers aware.

2. DEFINITION

- A legal definition for food purposes is now provided in the EU Food Information Regulation 1169/2011:

‘engineered nanomaterial’ means any intentionally produced material that has one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nm or less or that is composed of discrete functional parts, either internally or at the surface, many of which have one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nm or less, including structures, agglomerates or aggregates, which may have a size above the order of 100 nm but retain properties that are characteristic of the nanoscale.

Properties that are characteristic of the nanoscale include:

- (i) those related to the large specific surface area of the materials considered; and/or*
- (ii) specific physico-chemical properties that are different from those of the non-nanoform of the same material.*

3. CURRENT STATUS

- Marks & Spencer does not currently use any nanotechnology in any of our foods or food packaging, but continues to listen to our customer views about the ongoing debate.

4. POLICY

- Whilst we recognise that nanotechnology may offer significant benefit to consumers, at the same time we remain sensitive to concerns about this technology.
- Marks & Spencer remains deeply committed to our brand values of ‘Innovation’ and ‘Trust’, and these core principles are the basis of our policy.
- The use of nanotechnology in M&S products will be considered on a case-by-case base, and only used where there is a clear customer benefit – and where there is robust scientific evidence of functionality and safety in particular.

Our policy is driven by both our customers’ interest and any potential concerns. To support this process we have an internal governance process, which is supported by external scientific experts. In keeping with our ‘Plan A’, we will also consider wider social, environmental and ethical implications arising from the use of nanotechnology.

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- Marks & Spencer will continue to keep abreast of any developments within this field and, of course, ensure full compliance with any current or future legal requirements.

5. LABELLING

- Given our open and honest approach to labelling, we are committed to providing customers with the transparency about the use of such technology in an easy to understand fashion.
- If any nano ingredients are used in M&S foods, we will introduce labelling (ahead of forthcoming EU legislation) to indicate their presence.
- Moreover, if we use nanotechnology in our foods we will maintain a register, and openly inform our customers of M&S products that use nano particles or structures.

27th January 2012

NANOTECHNOLOGY WEB-SITE STATEMENT

Background

Nanotechnology is an emerging science and involves the use of very small particles that have a size of one hundred nanometres (nm) or less. A nanometre is one billionth of a metre.

There is growing interest in nanotechnology because such small materials can behave differently, and be potentially very useful. This can be because materials have a relatively larger surface area, which can make them more active or have different characteristics. Nanotechnology is not new – and has been used for some time in a variety of industries and products.

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