

Q: What constitutes a vegetable oil?

A: **Vegetable oils** are lipid materials derived from plants – In terms of the Food Standards Code, there's no definition of 'vegetable oil' but there is one for 'edible oils', which incorporates oils of vegetable and animal origin (supports the definition above):

edible oils mean the triglycerides and/or diglycerides of fatty acids of plant or animal origin including aquatic plants and aquatic animals.

Q: What percentage of consumers use food labels?

A: **Use of food labels:** A FSANZ Consumer Attitudes Survey found that:

When asked about use of food labels when purchasing a product for the first time:

- 33% always reference the label

Of those who referred to the label:

- 73% looked for the best before/use by date
- 62% looked for the amount of fat
- 53% looked at the ingredient list generally
- 50% looked for the amount of saturated fat.

Ref: TNS Social Research, 2008, *Consumer Attitudes Survey 2007: A benchmark survey of consumers' attitudes to food issues*. Available at:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/srcfiles/Consumer%20Attitudes%20Survey.pdf>

Q: Are you aware of the RSPO's Grievance Panel finding against IOI Research Centre and IOI Corporation Berhad (IOI)?

A: Yes

Q: Were you aware of these breaches before your appearance before the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 18 April 2011?

A: No

Q: As a member of the RSPO, do you support the decision against IOI and subsequent requirements upon them to respond to the complaint raised against them?

A: AFGC has not made a practice of commenting on decisions made by the RSPO.

Q: Do any of your members buy their palm oil from IOI? Which?

A: Am not privy to advice on whether AFGC member companies purchase from IOI.

Q: As a member of the RSPO and you encourage sustainable production of palm oil and the IOI has been found to have breached RSPO guidelines, have you advised your members of IOI's conduct?

A: As a member of RSPO we encourage our members to join RSPO and to source sustainable palm oil. AFGC is not in a position to nor would we seek to advise members on specific commercial purchasing policy particularly in relation to specific companies.

Q: As a member of the RSPO and you encourage sustainable production of palm oil and the IOI has been found to have breached RSPO guidelines, have you/will you advise your members to stop buying palm oil from IOI?

A: See above.