

8 February 2011

Project Officer Application A1037  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 10559  
The Terrace  
WELLINGTON 6036

FS350-117-1037

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Application A1037 – Steviol glycosides – Increase in Permitted Use Levels – Assessment Report**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has the following comments to make.

MAF supports Option 2, which is to amend Standard 1.3.1 to allow an increase in the maximum permitted levels of steviol glycosides in the proposed foods. We are satisfied that the proposed increased level of use of steviol glycosides is technologically justified, as it allows more acceptable taste profiles and more choice when formulating foods. MAF agrees that there are no public health or safety concerns.

MAF has a comment to make in relation to the proposed draft standard. We note that some of the proposed levels of the additive could be subject to minor rounding. For example, 176 mg/kg could be rounded to 175 mg/kg, and 208 mg/kg to either 200 or 210 mg/kg.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Reid  
Manager Food Safety  
Science, Information and Risk Directorate