

Comments from the Victorian Department of Health

Due date of submission – 6 September 2013

The Victorian Department of Health (DH) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1075 which seeks permission for the use of quillaia extract as a food additive (technological function – emulsifier) in a range of beverages.

DH is aware that quillaia extract has been permitted as a flavour in Australia and New Zealand for many years as it is in the *Generally Recognised as Safe* list of flavouring substances published by the Flavour and Extract Manufacturers' Association of the United States from 1960 to 2011 (edition 25). That list is referenced in Standard 1.3.1, clause 11 of the Code to provide that permission and it is noted that some references state that the average level of use of quillaia extract as a flavour in non-alcoholic beverages is around 90 mg per kilogram. This is well above the levels requested by the applicant for use as an emulsifier (30 – 40 mg/kg).

DH supports the agreement reached by the Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation's Expert Advisory Group on Analytical Methods that the method of analysis provided by the applicant is suitable for the determination of quillaia saponins in beverages.

DH acknowledges that no public health and safety concerns associated with the proposed addition of quillaia extract to beverages were raised by FSANZ.