

Comments from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Due date of submission – 10 April 2019

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the departments) welcome the opportunity to respond to this application to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

Application A1160 – Aspergillopepsin I from *Trichoderma reesei* as a Processing Aid (Enzyme) seeks to permit the use of the enzyme, aspergillopepsin I from a genetically modified strain of *Trichoderma reesei* (*T. reesei*).

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report it is understood that:

- Aspergillopepsin I from the genetically modified strain of *T. reesei* is used in the manufacture of potable alcohol, and animal and vegetable protein products. The enzyme would not perform a function in food products at the point of sale, and therefore meets the requirements to be used as a processing aid.
- The genetic modification of the strain of *T. reesei* was achieved through the insertion of the Aspergillopepsin I gene with inheritance stability.
- FSANZ's risk assessment concluded that there are no public health and safety issues associated with the use of the enzyme as a processing aid. The safety of *T. reesei* has previously been assessed by FSANZ and the Code permits several enzymes derived from the organism.
- The Code currently permits the use of Aspergillopepsin I from other microbial sources for the use in all foods.
- Aspergillopepsin I has received Generally Recognised as Safe (GRAS) approval in France and Denmark. The enzyme has been assessed as GRAS by a panel of scientific experts in the US.

On the basis of the information above, the departments support the progression of Application A1160.