

# New Zealand Food Safety

Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

Project Officer Application A1166  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 10559  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6036

18 June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Application A1166 – Reduction in minimum alcohol for Tequila**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has the following comments to make;

### *General comments*

MPI supports the amendment to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) following an application made by Spirits New Zealand Inc. to lower the minimum percentage of alcohol by volume (alc/vol) for Tequila only specified in Standard 2.7.5 from 37% to 35%. The application pertains only to spirits using the Tequila geographical indication (GI).

### *Risk assessment*

MPI supports the risk and technical assessment and accepts FSANZ's recommendation to lower the minimum alcohol percentage for Tequila from 37% to 35% alc/vol.

### *Draft variation contained in Attachment A to the Call for Submission paper*

We agree to the variation of Standard 2.7.5- 3 by omitting subsection 2.7.5-3(3) and inserting the proposed variation

- (3) A food that is sold as a spirit must:
- (a) be a spirit, and;
  - (b) contain no less than:
    - (i) in the case of tequila – 35% alcohol by volume; and
    - (ii) otherwise – 37% alcohol by volume.

We note that an assessment of public health and safety was not considered necessary by FSANZ given the nature of the changes sought by the application.

Yours sincerely

  
Roger Cook  
**Manager Food Science and Risk Assessment**

