

Application A1171 – Endo-inulinase from GM *Aspergillus oryzae* as a Processing aid (Enzyme)

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

Due date of submission – 17 October 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 A1171 – Endo-inulinase from GM *Aspergillus oryzae* as a Processing aid (Enzyme) seeks to permit the use of the enzyme, endo-inulinase (also known as inulinase), from a genetically modified (GM) strain of *Aspergillus oryzae* (*A. oryzae*).

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

- Endo-inulinase from *A. oryzae* (the enzyme) is involved in the hydrolysis of inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS).
- FOS is used in the production of dairy products, cereal bars, meal replacement beverages, infant formula and baby foods for several technological purposes including as a sugar alternative, a low caloric bulking agent, and for dietary fibre supplementation. The enzyme would not perform a function in these products at the point of sale, and therefore meets the requirements for use as a processing aid.
- The enzyme is derived from a GM strain of *A. oryzae* containing the endo-inulinase gene from *Aspergillus ficuum*.
- *A. oryzae* has a long history of safe use in food enzyme production and the Code currently permits several enzymes derived from the organism. It is a non-pathogenic and non-toxicogenic organism.
- The Code currently permits the use of only one inulinase sourced from the fungus, *Aspergillus niger*.
- The enzyme is permitted for use in the US and European Union.
- It is noted that bioinformatic analysis identified theoretical potential homology to minor allergens in tomato. The public health risk is considered low as tomato is not considered to be a significant source of allergic reactions.

On the basis of the information above and FSANZ's conclusion that there are no public health and safety issues associated with the use of endo-inulinase from *A. oryzae* as a processing aid, the departments support the progression of Application A1171.