

16 December 2009
[20-09]

APPLICATION A1028 FOOD DERIVED FROM INSECT-PROTECTED AND HERBICIDE-TOLERANT COTTON LINE T304-40 ASSESSMENT REPORT

Executive Summary

Purpose

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) received an Application from Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd (Bayer) on 5 June 2009. The Applicant requested a variation to Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology, in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code), to permit the sale and use of food derived from genetically modified (GM) cotton line T304-40, conferring insect-protection and herbicide-tolerance.

This Application is being assessed under the General Procedure and will include one round of public consultation.

Safety Assessment

A new genetically modified (GM) cotton line, T304-40, has been developed that is protected against feeding damage by Lepidopteran insect larvae, and which is also tolerant to herbicides containing glufosinate ammonium. Insect protection is conferred by expression of a modified Cry1Ab protein from *Bacillus thuringiensis* and herbicide tolerance is conferred by expression of phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (PAT) from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*.

FSANZ has completed a comprehensive safety assessment of food derived from cotton plants containing event T304-40 (see **Supporting Document 1**¹).

This assessment included consideration of (i) the genetic modification to the plant; (ii) the potential toxicity and allergenicity of the novel proteins; and (iii) the composition of cotton line T304-40 compared with that of conventional cotton cultivars.

No public health and safety concerns have been identified in this pre-market safety assessment of food derived from cotton line T304-40. On the basis of the available evidence, including detailed studies provided by the Applicant, food derived from cotton line T304-40 is considered as safe and wholesome as food derived from other commercial cotton cultivars.

¹ SD1 Safety Assessment for Application A1028
(<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/applications/applicationa1028oild4468.cfm>)

Labelling

Labelling addresses the objective set out in paragraph 18(1)(b) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act); that is, the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices. The general labelling requirements will provide consumers with information about the GM status of foods.

In accordance with general labelling provisions, food derived from cotton line T304-40, if approved, would be required to be labelled as genetically modified if novel DNA and/or novel protein is present in the final food.

Impact of Regulatory Options

Following satisfactory completion of the safety assessment, two regulatory options were considered: (1) rejection of the Application; or (2) approval of food derived from cotton line T304-40.

Following analysis of the potential costs and benefits of each option on affected parties (consumers, the food industry and government), option 2, approval of this Application is the preferred option. Under option 2, the potential benefits to all sectors outweigh the costs associated with the approval.

Assessing the Application/Proposal

In assessing the Application/Proposal and the subsequent development of a food regulatory measure, FSANZ has had regard to the following matters as prescribed in section 29 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act):

- Whether costs that would arise from a food regulatory measure developed or varied as a result of the Application/Proposal outweigh the direct and indirect benefits to the community, Government or industry that would arise from the development or variation of the food regulatory measure.
- There are no other measures that would be more cost-effective than a variation to Standard 1.5.2 that could achieve the same end.
- Any relevant New Zealand standards.
- Any other relevant matters.

Preferred Approach

To prepare a draft variation to Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology, to include food derived from insect-protected herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 in the Table to clause 2.

Reasons for Preferred Approach

The development of a draft variation to the Code to give approval to the sale and use of food derived from cotton line T304-40 in Australia and New Zealand is proposed on the basis of the available scientific evidence, for the following reasons:

- the safety assessment did not identify any public health and safety concerns associated with the genetic modification used to produce cotton line T304-40

- food derived from cotton line T304-40 is equivalent to that from other commercially available cotton cultivars in terms of its safety for human consumption and nutritional adequacy
- labelling of certain foods derived from cotton line T304-40 will be required if novel DNA and/or novel proteins are present in the final food
- a regulation impact assessment process has been undertaken that fulfils the requirement in Australia and New Zealand for an assessment of compliance costs. The assessment concluded that the preferred option is Option 2, a variation to the Code
- there are no relevant New Zealand standards
- there are no other measures that would be more cost-effective than a variation to Standard 1.5.2 that could achieve the same end.

Consultation

Public submissions are now invited on this Assessment Report. Comments are requested on the scientific aspects of this Application, in particular, information relevant to the safety assessment of food derived from cotton line T304-40.

As this Application is being assessed as a General Procedure, there will be one round of public comment. Responses to this Assessment Report will be used to develop the Approval Report for the Application.

Invitation for Submissions

FSANZ invites public comment on this Report and the draft variation/s to the Code based on regulation impact principles for the purpose of preparing a variation to the Code for approval by the FSANZ Board.

Written submissions are invited from interested individuals and organisations to assist FSANZ in further considering this Application/Proposal. Submissions should, where possible, address the objectives of FSANZ as set out in section 18 of the FSANZ Act. Information providing details of potential costs and benefits of the proposed change to the Code from stakeholders is highly desirable. Claims made in submissions should be supported wherever possible by referencing or including relevant studies, research findings, trials, surveys etc. Technical information should be in sufficient detail to allow independent scientific assessment.

The processes of FSANZ are open to public scrutiny, and any submissions received will ordinarily be placed on the public register of FSANZ and made available for inspection. If you wish any information contained in a submission to remain confidential to FSANZ, you should clearly identify the sensitive information, separate it from your submission and provide justification for treating it as confidential commercial material. Section 114 of the FSANZ Act requires FSANZ to treat in-confidence, trade secrets relating to food and any other information relating to food, the commercial value of which would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished by disclosure.

Submissions must be made in writing and should clearly be marked with the word 'Submission' and quote the correct project number and name. While FSANZ accepts submissions in hard copy to our offices, it is more convenient and quicker to receive submissions electronically through the FSANZ website using the Standards Development tab and then through Documents for Public Comment. Alternatively, you may email your submission directly to the Standards Management Officer at submissions@foodstandards.gov.au. There is no need to send a hard copy of your submission if you have submitted it by email or the FSANZ website. FSANZ endeavours to formally acknowledge receipt of submissions within 3 business days.

DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: 6pm (Canberra time) 10 February 2010

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Submissions received after this date will only be considered if agreement for an extension has been given prior to this closing date. Agreement to an extension of time will only be given if extraordinary circumstances warrant an extension to the submission period. Any agreed extension will be notified on the FSANZ website and will apply to all submitters.

Questions relating to making submissions or the application process can be directed to the Standards Management Officer at standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au.

If you are unable to submit your submission electronically, hard copy submissions may be sent to one of the following addresses:

**Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 7186
Canberra BC ACT 2610
AUSTRALIA
Tel (02) 6271 2222**

**Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace WELLINGTON 6036
NEW ZEALAND
Tel (04) 978 5636**

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following material, which was used in the preparation of this Assessment Report, is available on the FSANZ website at

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/applications/applicationa1028oid4468.cfm>)

SD1: Safety Assessment Report: Application A1028 – Food Derived from Insect-Protected and Herbicide-Tolerant Cotton Line T304-40

INTRODUCTION

On 5 June 2009, Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd (Bayer) submitted an Application seeking approval for food derived from cotton line T304-40 under Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology, in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code).

Cotton line T304-40 has been generated in order to derive, through normal cross-breeding practices, genetically modified (GM) cotton cultivars that are protected against feeding damage by Lepidopteran insect larvae, and are also tolerant to herbicides containing glufosinate ammonium. Insect protection is conferred by expression of a modified Cry1Ab protein from *Bacillus thuringiensis* and herbicide tolerance is conferred by expression of phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (PAT) from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*.

The purpose of the genetic modification is to optimise field performance of the cotton through reduction of Lepidopteran pest damage, and to reduce cultivation needs through the use of an alternative broad-spectrum herbicide.

This Assessment includes a full scientific evaluation of food derived from cotton line T304-40 according to FSANZ guidelines² to assess its safety for human consumption. Public comment is now sought on the safety assessment and proposed recommendations prior to further consideration and completion of the Application.

1. The Issue / Problem

The Applicant has developed GM cotton line T304-40. Pre-market approval is necessary before food product derived from this line may enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply. A variation to the Code granting approval to food derived from cotton line T304-40 must be approved by the FSANZ Board, and subsequently notified to the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council). A variation to the Code may only be gazetted once the Ministerial Council process has been finalised.

The Applicant has sought the necessary variation to Standard 1.5.2 to include food derived from cotton line T304-40 prior to any decision to commercialise the line.

The Application is being assessed as a General Procedure.

2. Current Standard

2.1 Background

Approval of GM foods under Standard 1.5.2 is contingent upon completion of a comprehensive pre-market safety assessment. Foods that have been assessed under the Standard, if approved, are listed in the Table to clause 2 of the Standard.

2.2 Overseas approvals

Submissions on cotton line T304-40 have been made to the appropriate agencies for food, feed and environmental approvals in the United States (Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture) and Canada (Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency). The Applicant has advised that further submissions for import approvals in other key international markets will also be made.

² FSANZ (2007). Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Foods – Guidance Document. http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/srcfiles/GM%20FINAL%20Sept%2007L%20_2_.pdf

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted an exemption from a food tolerance for Bt Cry1Ab protein in all food and feed commodities on August 2, 1996 (EPA, 1996)³. The tolerance exemption is published in the Code of Federal Regulations 40CFR 174.511 since 2008, formerly 40CFR 180.1173 (EPA, 2007)⁴. In September 2001, EPA completed a reassessment of this tolerance exemption considering all of the existing data, public literature, and public comments. The reassessment determined that the tolerance exemption met all the scientific and regulatory standards. This tolerance exemption for the Bt Cry1Ab protein is not event-specific and therefore applies to all events producing the Cry1Ab protein that might be found in the food supply (http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/biopesticides/pips/bt10_statement.htm).

The EPA, based on submitted toxicological data, established an exemption for the requirement of a tolerance of residues of PAT and the genetic material necessary for its production in all plants, on 11 April 1997 (EPA, 1997)⁵. The tolerance exemption is published in the Code of Federal Regulations 40CFR 174.522 since 2008, formerly 40CFR 180.1151 (EPA, 2007)⁴.

3. Objectives

In developing or varying a food standard, FSANZ is required by its legislation to meet three primary objectives which are set out in section 18 of the FSANZ Act. These are:

- the protection of public health and safety; and
- the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; and
- the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.

In developing and varying standards, FSANZ must also have regard to:

- the need for standards to be based on risk analysis using the best available scientific evidence;
- the promotion of consistency between domestic and international food standards;
- the desirability of an efficient and internationally competitive food industry;
- the promotion of fair trading in food; and
- any written policy guidelines formulated by the Ministerial Council.

³ EPA. (1996) *Bacillus Thuringiensis* CryIA(b) Delta-Endotoxin and the Genetic Material Necessary for Its Production in All Plants; Exemption from Requirement of a Tolerance. *Federal Register* 61(150):40340-40343, available online at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/1996/August/Day-02/pr-838.html>.

⁴ EPA. (2007) Administrative revisions to plant-incorporated protectant tolerance exemptions. *Federal Register* 72(79):20431-20436.

⁵ EPA. (1997) Phosphinothricin Acetyltransferase and the Genetic Material Necessary for Its Production in All Plants; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance On All Raw Agricultural Commodities. *Federal Register* 62(70):17717-17720, available online at <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-PEST/1997/April/Day-11/p9373.htm>.

4. Questions to be answered

Based on information provided by the Applicant on the nature of the genetic modification, the molecular characterisation, the characterisation of the novel proteins, the compositional analysis and consideration of any nutritional issues, is food derived from cotton line T304-40 comparable to food derived from conventional cultivars of cotton in terms of its safety for human consumption?

Is other information available, including from the scientific literature, general technical information, independent scientists, other regulatory agencies and international bodies, and the general community, that should be taken into account in this assessment?

Are there any other considerations that would influence the outcome of this assessment?

RISK ASSESSMENT

Food derived from cotton line T304-40 has been evaluated according to the safety assessment guidelines prepared by FSANZ⁶ and is provided in **Supporting Document 1⁷**. The summary and conclusions from the safety assessment are presented below.

In addition to information supplied by the Applicant, other available resource material including published scientific literature and general technical information was used in this assessment.

5. Risk Assessment Summary

5.1 Safety Assessment Process

In conducting a safety assessment of food derived from cotton line T304-40, a number of criteria have been addressed including: a characterisation of the transferred coding sequences, their origin, function and stability in the cotton genome; the changes at the level of DNA, protein and in the whole food; detailed compositional analyses; evaluation of intended and unintended changes; and the potential for any newly expressed protein(s) to be either allergenic or toxic in humans.

The safety assessment applied to food from cotton line T304-40 addresses only food safety and nutritional issues. It does not address any risks related to the release into the environment of GM plants used in food production, the safety of animal feed or animals fed with feed derived from GM plants, or the safety of food derived from the non-GM (conventional) plant.

5.2 Outcomes of the Safety Assessment

Cotton line T304-40 contains two novel gene cassettes. One contains a modified *cry1Ab* gene that encodes an insecticidal crystal protein and the other contains a *bar* gene that encodes a protein conferring tolerance to herbicides containing glufosinate ammonium (phosphinothricin).

⁶ FSANZ (2007) Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Foods – Guidance Document. <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/srcfiles/GM%20FINAL%20Sept%2007L%202.pdf>

⁷ SD1 Safety Assessment for A1028 <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/applications/applicationa1028oid4457.cfm>

Comprehensive molecular analyses of cotton line T304-40 indicate that there is a single insertion site containing two, almost complete copies of the *cry1Ab* cassette, an almost complete copy of the *bar* cassette and an isolated partial terminator sequence from the *cry1Ab* cassette. The introduced genetic elements are stably inherited from one generation to the next. There are no antibiotic resistance marker genes present in line T304-40.

Expression analyses of the two novel proteins produced in line T304-40 showed that PAT is expressed in all plant parts tested but is highest in young leaves (61.4 µg/g fresh weight). Cry1Ab is not detectable in any plant parts except the seed (3.7 µg/g fresh weight).

Studies have demonstrated that the Cry1Ab and PAT proteins conform in size and amino acid sequence to that expected, do not exhibit any post-translational modification including glycosylation and, in the case of PAT, exhibit the expected enzymatic activity. The activity of the expressed Cry1Ab protein was unable to be tested because the protein was not isolated in enough quantity to perform an insect assay.

Bioinformatic studies have confirmed that both proteins lack any significant amino acid sequence similarity to known protein toxins or allergens, and digestibility studies have demonstrated that both proteins would be rapidly degraded in the stomach following ingestion. Acute oral toxicity studies in mice have also confirmed their absence of toxicity in animals. Both proteins exhibit a degree of heat stability, however given their digestive lability, this does not raise any safety concerns. Taken together, the evidence indicates that the Cry1Ab and PAT proteins are unlikely to be toxic or allergenic to humans.

Detailed compositional analyses were done on fuzzy seed derived from T304-40 cotton plants. Analyses were done of proximates (crude protein, crude fat, ash and total carbohydrates), ADF, NDF, fatty acids, amino acids, micronutrients (minerals and α-tocopherol) and anti-nutrients (gossypol, phytic acid and cyclopropenoid fatty acids). The levels were compared to levels in the non-GM parent as well as to the ranges found in commercial cotton cultivars reported in the literature. Additionally, levels of analytes were measured in processed commodities derived from control and GM cottonseed, although the results from these commodities were not analysed statistically. Taken overall, the compositional data are consistent with the conclusion that there are no biologically significant differences in the levels of key components in seed from cotton line T304-40 when compared with conventional cotton cultivars currently on the market.

Although not essential for establishing the safety of the food, one broiler feeding study with T304-4 cotton was evaluated as additional supporting data. Such studies are not toxicity studies and are intended to address only whether food derived from the GM plant is able to sustain normal growth and well being. It was concluded from the study that cottonseed meal from cotton T304-40 was nutritionally adequate, and equivalent to that derived from a non-GM control cotton and a commercial non-GM cultivar, in its ability to support typical growth and well being.

Conclusion

No potential public health and safety concerns have been identified in the assessment of cotton line T304-40. On the basis of the data provided in the present Application, and other available information, food derived from cotton line T304-40 is considered as safe for human consumption as food derived from conventional cotton cultivars.

RISK MANAGEMENT

6. Issues raised

6.1 Risk Management Strategy

In accordance with general labelling provisions, food derived from cotton line T304-40, if approved, would be required to be labelled as genetically modified if novel DNA and/or novel protein is present in the final food.

7. Options

There are no non-regulatory options for this Application. The two regulatory options available for this Application are:

7.1 Option 1 – Maintain the *status quo*

Reject the Application, thus maintaining the *status quo*.

7.2 Option 2 – Develop a food regulatory measure

Proceed to development of a food regulatory measure to vary Standard 1.5.2 to permit the sale and use of food derived from insect-protected and herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40, with or without specified conditions in the Table to clause 2 of the Standard.

8. Impact Analysis

In the course of developing food regulatory measures suitable for adoption in Australia and New Zealand, FSANZ is required to consider the impact of all options on all sectors of the community, including consumers, the food industry and governments in both countries. The regulatory impact assessment identifies and evaluates, though is not limited to, the costs and benefits of the regulation, and its health, economic and social impacts.

8.1 Affected Parties

The affected parties may include the following:

- Consumers of cotton-containing food products, particularly those concerned about the use of biotechnology to generate new crop varieties.
- Industry sectors:
 - food importers and distributors of wholesale ingredients
 - processors and manufacturers of cotton-containing food products
 - food retailers
- Government:
 - enforcement agencies
 - national Governments, in terms of trade and World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations.

Cotton line T304-40 has been developed primarily for agricultural production overseas and, at this stage, the Applicant has no plans for cultivation of this variety in either Australia or New Zealand. The cultivation of cotton T304-40 in Australia or New Zealand could have an impact on the environment, which would need to be independently assessed by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) in Australia, and by various New Zealand Government agencies including the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) before commercial release in either country could be permitted.

8.2 Benefit Cost Analysis

8.2.1 Option 1 – Maintain the status quo

Consumers: Possible restriction in the availability of imported cottonseed products to those products that do not contain cotton line T304-40.

No impact on consumers wishing to avoid GM foods, as food from cotton line T304-40 is not currently permitted in the food supply.

Potential increase in price of imported cottonseed foods due to requirement for segregation of cotton line T304-40.

Government: Potential impact if considered inconsistent with WTO obligations but impact would be in terms of trade policy rather than in government revenue.

Industry: Possible restriction on imports of cottonseed food products once cotton line T304-40 is commercialised overseas.

Potential longer-term impact - any successful WTO challenge has the potential to impact adversely on food industry.

8.2.2 Option 2 – Develop a draft regulatory measure

Consumers: Broader availability of imported cottonseed products as there would be no restriction on imported foods containing cotton line T304-40.

Potentially, no increase in the prices of imported foods manufactured using comingled cottonseed products.

Appropriate labelling would allow consumers wishing to avoid GM cottonseed products to do so.

Government: Benefit that if cotton line T304-40 was detected in cottonseed imports, approval would ensure compliance of those products with the Code. This would ensure no potential for trade disruption on regulatory grounds.

Approval of cotton line T304-40 would ensure no conflict with WTO responsibilities.

This option could impact on enforcement resources, as certain foods derived from cotton line T304-40 will be required to be labelled as genetically modified.

Industry: Importers of processed foods containing cottonseed derivatives would benefit as foods derived from cotton line T304-40 would be compliant with the Code, allowing broader market access and increased choice in raw materials.

Retailers may be able to offer a broader range of cottonseed products or imported foods manufactured using cottonseed derivatives.

Possible cost to food industry as some food ingredients derived from cotton line T304-40 would be required to be labelled.

8.3 Comparison of Options

As food from cotton line T304-40 has been found to be as safe as food from conventional cultivars of cotton, Option 1 is likely to be inconsistent with Australia's and New Zealand's WTO obligations. Option 1 would also offer little benefit to consumers, as approval of cotton line T304-40 by other countries could limit the availability of imported cottonseed products in the Australian and New Zealand markets. In addition, Option 1 would result in the requirement for segregation of any products containing cotton line T304-40 from those containing approved cotton lines which would be likely to increase the costs of imported cottonseed foods.

Based on the conclusions of the safety assessments, the potential benefits of Option 2 outweigh the potential costs. A variation to Standard 1.5.2 giving approval to insect-protected, herbicide tolerant cotton line T304-40 is therefore the preferred option.

8.4 Proposed changes to legal drafting in Standard 1.5.2

It has been brought to the attention of FSANZ that there is an inconsistency in the wording of cotton entries in the Table to clause 2 of Standard 1.5.2. In some instances the approval is stated as being for 'oil and linters' and in other instances it is stated as being for 'food'. In order to rectify this inconsistency and to standardise the wording used for cotton entries FSANZ will vary the wording to state only 'food derived from.'

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION STRATEGY

9. Communication

It is considered that this Application is a routine matter. Therefore, FSANZ has applied a basic communication strategy. This will involve advertising the availability of assessment reports for public comment in the national press and making reports available on the FSANZ website.

The Applicant and individuals and organisations that make submissions on this Application will be notified at each stage of the assessment. If the draft variation to the Code is approved by the FSANZ Board, that decision will be notified to Council. If the approval of food derived from insect-protected, herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 is not subject to review, the Applicant and stakeholders, including the public, will be notified of the gazettal of the variation to the Code in the national press and on the website.

10. Consultation

Public submissions are invited on this Assessment Report. Comments are specifically sought on the scientific aspects of this Application, in particular, information relevant to the safety assessment of food derived from insect-protected, herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40.

10.1 World Trade Organization (WTO)

As members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Australia and New Zealand are obligated to notify WTO member nations where proposed mandatory regulatory measures are inconsistent with any existing or imminent international standards and the proposed measure may have a significant effect on trade.

The draft variation to the Code would have a trade enabling effect as it would permit food derived from insect-protected, herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 to be imported into Australia and New Zealand and sold, where currently it is prohibited. For this reason it was determined there is no need to notify this Application as a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measure in accordance with the WTO Agreement on the Application of SPS Measures.

CONCLUSION

11. Conclusion and Preferred Option

Preferred Approach

To prepare a draft variation to Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology, to include food derived from insect-protected herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 in the Table to clause 2.

11.1 Reasons for Preferred Approach

The development of a variation to the Code to give approval to the sale and use of food derived from insect-protected herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 in Australia and New Zealand is proposed on the basis of the available scientific evidence, for the following reasons:

- the safety assessment did not identify any public health and safety concerns associated with the genetic modification used to produce insect-protected herbicide tolerant cotton line T304-40
- seed from insect-protected herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 is equivalent to other commercially available cotton cultivars in terms of its safety for human consumption and nutritional adequacy
- labelling of certain foods derived from insect-protected herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40 will be required in the ingredients list if novel DNA or novel protein are present in the final food
- a regulation impact assessment process has been undertaken that fulfils the requirement in Australia and New Zealand for an assessment of compliance costs. The assessment concluded that the preferred option is Option 2, a variation to the Code, and
- there are no other measures that would be more cost-effective than a variation to Standard 1.5.2 that could achieve the same end.

12. Implementation and Review

Following the consultation period for this document, an Approval Report will be completed and the draft variation will be considered for approval by the FSANZ Board.

The FSANZ Board's decision will then be notified to the Ministerial Council. Following notification, the proposed draft variation to the Code is expected to come into effect on gazettal, subject to any request from the Ministerial Council for a review of FSANZ's decision.

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft variation to the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*

Attachment 1

Draft variation to the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*

Section 87(8) of the FSANZ Act provides that standards or variations to standards are legislative instruments, but are not subject to disallowance or sunseting

To commence: on gazettal

[1] **Standard 1.5.2** of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* is varied by –

[1.1] *inserting in the Table to clause 2 –*

Food derived from insect-protected and herbicide-tolerant cotton line T304-40	
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[1.2] *omitting wherever occurring in Column 1 of the Table to clause 2 –*

Oil and linters derived from

substituting –

Food derived from