

Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Due date of submission – 6 March 2017

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1125 – Endo β (1,4) xylanase as a processing aid (enzyme).

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- The purpose of the application is to permit the use of the enzyme endo β (1,4) xylanase (xylanase) as a processing aid in the manufacture of cereal products.
- Xylanase is derived from *Pseudoalteromonas haloplanktis* and produced by a genetically modified source of *Bacillus subtilis*. GM *B.subtilis* is used for the production of other enzymes permitted in the Code.
- The genetically modified strain of *B. subtilis* for the production of xylanase has been evaluated and authorised in France, Brazil and Canada.
- Xylanase is naturally present in many cereals. The addition of further xylanase provides improved effectiveness in the manufacture of bakery and other cereal-based products under typical production conditions.
- The use of the enzyme is technologically justified.
- The conclusions of FSANZ's risk assessment provide evidence that there are no safety risks from the use of the enzyme as a processing aid.
- No novel DNA or novel protein remains in the final food treated with xylanase. Therefore there are no genetically modified labelling requirements for use of this enzyme when used as a processing aid in the production of food.

On the basis of this understanding, the departments support the progression of the Application.