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**Call for submissions—Application A1163 Food Irradiation definition of herbs and spices**

Henschel Investments Pty Ltd, Trading as Cape To Cairo is an importer and distributor of foods from South Africa , based in Perth, Western Australia.

We are writing to supports the proposed amend to section 1.5.3—4 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code), to replace the current definition of “herbs and spices” with a definition that gives ‘herb’ and ‘spice’ their ordinary and commonly understood meaning. We note that whilst the amendment makes reference to the general descriptions for herbs and spices in Schedule 22, this is for guidance only and that the commodity lists in Schedule 22 are not exhaustive.

Under the proposed amendment the definitions of herbs and spices include (but are not limited to):

- plant material that meets the general description of a ‘herb’ or ‘spice’ in Schedule 22; and/or
- is expressly included in the relevant list of commodities provided in Schedule 22 for ‘herbs and spices’.

This amendment will provide certainty for Cape To Cairo and other importers that foods complying with the Code, containing herbs and spices that have been irradiated in accordance with Codex Standards and/or relevant standards or directives in the European Union, Canada and the United States, may be imported into Australia.