

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

Due date of submission – 30 July 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).

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has called for submissions to Application A1169 - Alpha-glucosidase from *Trichoderma reesei* as a processing aid (enzyme). The Application seeks permission to use alpha-glucosidase derived from a genetically modified strain of *T. reesei* as a processing aid in the production of biochemical compounds and food additives.

From the FSANZ's assessment report it is understood that:

- Alpha-glucosidase from *Trichoderma reesei* (the enzyme) is proposed to be used in the production of potable alcohol, lysine, organic acids, monosodium glutamate, other biochemical compounds and sweeteners. The enzyme would not perform a function in these products, and therefore meets the requirements of a processing aid.
- The enzyme is derived from a genetically modified strain of *T. reesei* containing the α -glucosidase gene from *Aspergillus niger*.
- The safety of *T. reesei* has previously been assessed by FSANZ and the Code currently permits several enzymes derived from the organism.
- The enzyme has received Generally Recognised as Safe (GRAS) approval and is permitted for use as a processing aid in the United States.
- Novel DNA or novel protein may remain in the food treated with the enzyme and these foods would be required to display genetically modified labelling when sold.
- FSANZ has concluded that there are no public health and safety issues associated with the use of the enzyme as a processing aid.

On the basis of the information above, the departments support the progression of Application A1169.