30 May 2001
15/01

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPLICATION A431

MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (Nov 2000/January 2001)

Applicant: National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals.

Date received: 22 November 2000 and 24 January 2001.

1 BACKGROUND

An application has been received from the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA) seeking amendment to Standards A14 and 1.4.2 of the *Food Standards Code*. The proposed amendments to Schedule 1 of the Standards would align Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) in the *Food Standards Code* with the MRLs in the *NRA MRL Standard*.

1.1 The Use of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals

In Australia, the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA) is responsible for registering agricultural and veterinary chemical products, granting permits for use of chemical products and regulating the sale of agricultural and veterinary chemical products. Following the sale of these products, the use of them is then regulated by State and Territory 'control of use' legislation.

Before registering such a product, the NRA must be satisfied that the use of the product will not result in residues that would be an undue risk to the safety of people, including people using anything containing its residues. When a chemical product is registered for use or a permit for use is granted, the NRA includes MRLs in their *NRA MRL Standard*. These MRLs are then adopted into control of use legislation in some jurisdictions and assist States and Territories in regulating the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Comments have been received by ANZFA in the past about the use of chemical products on foods. As ANZFA does not regulate the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, any comments about the use of these chemicals should be directed to the NRA or the relevant State or Territory.

1.2 Maximum Residue Limits

An MRL is the highest concentration of a chemical residue that is legally permitted or accepted in a food. The MRL does not indicate the amount of the chemical that is always present in a treated food, but does indicate the highest residue that could possibly result from the registered conditions of use. The concentration is expressed in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of the food.

MRLs assist in indicating whether an agricultural or veterinary chemical product has been used according to its registered use and if the MRL is exceeded then this indicates a likely misuse of the chemical product.

As stated above, the NRA includes MRLs in their *NRA MRL Standard* when they register a chemical product for use or grant a permit for use.
MRLs in the *Food Standard Code* also act both to protect public health and public safety by ensuring that chemical residues are no higher than necessary, and as international trading standards.

The NRA then notifies ANZFA of these MRLs so that ANZFA may consider them for inclusion into the *Food Standards Code*. In summary, the MRLs in the *NRA MRL Standard* are used in some jurisdictions to assist in regulating the use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products under State and Territory 'control-of-use' legislation whereas the MRLs in the *Food Standards Code* apply to the sale of food under State and Territory food legislation.

In relation to MRLs, ANZFA's role is to ensure that the potential residues in treated food do not represent an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. ANZFA will not recommend MRLs for inclusion in the *Food Standards Code* where the dietary exposure to the residues of a chemical could represent an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. In assessing this risk, ANZFA conducts dietary exposure assessments in accordance with internationally accepted practices and procedures.

1.3 Food Standards Setting in Australia and New Zealand

1.3.1 Treaty between the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand

The agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of New Zealand, 1995 to establish a system for the development of joint food standards (the Treaty) excluded MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food from the joint Australia New Zealand food standards setting system. Australia and New Zealand separately develop MRLs for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food.

1.3.2 Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement

Following the commencement of the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) between Australia and New Zealand on 1 May 1998:

- Food produced in Australia that complies with volume 1 (Standard A14) or Volume 2 (Standard 1.4.2) of the *Food Standards Code* can be legally sold in New Zealand; and

- Food produced in New Zealand that complies with the *New Zealand (Maximum Residue Limits of Agricultural Compounds) Mandatory Food Standard, 1999* can be legally sold in Australia.

1.3.3 Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

On 24 November 2000 the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council adopted the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (published as Volume 2* of the *Food Standards Code)* which will provide an updated food regulatory system for both Australia and New Zealand. Subsequently all applications to amend Volume 1 (Standard A14 - Maximum Residue Limits) of the *Food Standards Code* will now also be included in Volume 2 (Standard 1.4.2 Maximum Residue Limits) (Australia Only) of the *Food Standards Code*. Consequently, references to *Food Standards Code* in this document apply equally to Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the *Food Standards Code*.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the proposed amendment is to allow the legal sale of legally treated produce. The NRA has registered or varied the registration of specific chemical products, and as a result their application seeks to include the following amendments.

2.1 MRLS for the extensions of use of chemicals

The NRA has advised that Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) amendments are required because of extensions of use for the following chemicals:

- bifenthrin, captan, chlorpyrifos, cyprodinil, fipronil, fludioxonil, fluvalinate, glyphosate, imidacloprid, novaluron, pymetrozine and tebufenozide.

2.2 Changes to existing MRLs

The NRA has advised that MRL amendments are required because of changes to existing MRLs for the following chemicals:

- diquat, dithiocarbamates, fipronil, imidacloprid, indoxacarb, phosphorous acid and tebufenozide.

2.3 Deletions to existing MRLs

The NRA has advised that MRL amendments are required because of deletion of MRLs for the following chemicals:

- chlorpyrifos, indoxacarb and pymetrozine.

The requested variation to Schedule 1 of Volume 1 (Standard A14) and Schedule 1 of Volume 2 (Standard 1.4.2) of the *Food Standards Code* are summarised at Attachment 1.

3 REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) is preliminary only and based on information provided by the applicant. The RIS identifies the affected parties, any alternative regulatory options and the potential impacts of any regulatory or non-regulatory provisions. The information needed to make an assessment of this application will include the information from public submissions. This preliminary RIS invites public comment on these areas.

3.1 Objective

To assess the costs and benefits associated with adopting the proposed regulatory change to permit the proposed MRLs.

3.2 Possible Options (Including Alternatives)

3.2.1 Option 1

Vary the *Food Standards Code* in accordance with the NRA's Application A431. The effect of this option would be that legally treated food could be legally sold or imported if it contained residues consistent with the MRLs in this application.

3.2.2 Option 2

Maintain the status quo and not include the MRLs in the NRA's application. The effect of this option would be that food containing chemicals residues up to a level in the *NRA MRL Standard* could not be legally sold or imported if it contained residues greater than those currently stipulated in the *Food Standards Code*.

3.3 Identification of Affected Parties

The parties affected by this application include:

- growers and producers of domestic and export food commodities;
- consumers, including domestic and overseas customers;
- importers and exporters of agricultural produce and foods; and
- Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies involved in monitoring agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food.

4 POTENTIAL REGULATORY IMPACTS

In considering the regulatory impact of the options listed below, it needs to be noted that the inclusion of MRLs in the *Food Standards Code* only permits the treated food to be legally sold if it contains chemical residues that do not exceed the MRL for the specified chemical(s). The inclusion of an MRL does not on its own permit or prohibit a particular chemical product from being used. This is regulated by other legislation.

The inclusion of MRLs in the *Food Standards Code* allows food producers to trade food that has been legally treated with registered agricultural and veterinary products. The use of agricultural and veterinary products provides effective pest and disease control and this potentially leads to improved productivity for producers, better quality food for consumers and more competitive primary industries.

Any MRL deletions or reductions have the potential to restrict the importation of food(s) and could potentially result in higher food costs and a reduced product range available to consumers, as foods that exceed the newer (lower) MRLs could not be legally sold to consumers. To identify any restrictions and possible trade impacts, Codex MRLs and data on imported foods have been considered in assessing the reductions and deletions within this application.

Option 1: To Include the Proposed MRLs in the *Food Standards Code*:

Will:

- permit greater flexibility for producers and importers of food, as food maybe legally permitted to contain residues up to the MRL permitted for that food;
- result in a slight impact on government monitoring programs, as more comprehensive monitoring may be needed; and
- potentially permit more variety and more competitively priced food for consumers as food treated with legally registered products can be legally sold.

Option 2: Do not include the proposed MRLs in the *Food Standards Code*:

Will result in:

- a discrepancy between agricultural and health legislation in that the agricultural legislation will permit the use of agricultural and veterinary products but the food legislation would prohibit the sale of the legally treated food;
- potentially less flexibility for producers and importers as treated food may not be legally sold; and
- the possibility of reducing the range and quality of foods for consumers as the treated food could not then be legally sold.

5 CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE *AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY ACT 1991*

Subsection 13(1) of the *Australia New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991* (ANZFA Act) requires ANZFA to make a preliminary assessment of an application. In making that preliminary assessment, subsection 13(2) requires ANZFA to have regard to a number of matters set out in paragraphs 13(2)(a) to (e). Each of these matters is discussed below.

5.1 Paragraph 13(2)(a)

This application relates to a matter that may warrant a variation to a food regulatory measure, because the application seeks an amendment of a standard. Under the ANZFA Act, a standard, by definition, is a food regulatory measure.

5.2 Paragraph 13(2)(b)

This application is not so similar to a previous application that it ought not be accepted.

5.3 Paragraph 13(2)(c)

The application does not suggest that the proposed amendment would present any further costs to the community, Government or industry. ANZFA has reviewed the application and has not identified any adverse health effects.
Benefits of the food regulatory measure in this application outweigh the direct and indirect cost to the community, Government and industry (see Option 1 in the Potential Regulatory Impacts).

5.4 Paragraph 13(2)(d)

The nature of the application is such that only a variation to a standard (i.e. a food regulatory measure) can bring about what the applicant is seeking. No other measures appear to be available.

5.5 Paragraph 13(2)(e)

Other relevant matters for consideration by ANZFA are as follows.

5.5.1 World Trade Organization Notification

As a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Australia is 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 MRLs prescribed in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* constitute a mandatory requirement applying to all food products of a particular class whether produced domestically or imported. Food products exceeding their relevant MRL set out in the *Food Standards Code* cannot legally be supplied in Australia.

In administrative terms and consistent with international practice, MRLs assist in regulating the use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products. MRLs indicate whether agricultural and veterinary chemical products have been used in accordance with the registered conditions of use. MRLs in the *Food Standard Code* also act both to protect public health and public safety by ensuring that chemical residues are no higher than necessary, and as international trading standards.

This application contains a variation to an MRL which is addressed in the international Codex standard. MRLs in this application also relate to chemicals used in the production of heavily traded agricultural commodities which may indirectly have a significant effect on

trade of derivative food products between WTO members. A WTO notification for this application will therefore be made following the endorsement of the Preliminary Assessment.

The application **will be** notified as a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measure in accordance with the WTO SPS agreement as the primary objective of the measure is to support regulating the use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products to protect human, animal and plant health and the environment.

5.5.2 Codex MRLs

The standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are used as the relevant international standards or basis as to whether a new or changed standard requires a WTO notification. The following table sets out the only proposed MRL, in the NRA application, which is more restrictive than the Codex MRL. -

Chemical Food	**Proposed MRL**	**Codex MRL**	**Comments**
Diazinon Fruits [except citrus fruits; olives; peaches]	0.5	1 (Cherries)	The proposed MRL will be more restrictive than the Codex MRL for cherries.

ANZFA requests comment as to any possible ramifications of the proposed change of this MRL.

5.5.3 Imported Foods

It should be recognised that agricultural and veterinary chemicals are used differently in other countries than in Australia because of different pests or diseases or because different products may be used. This means that residues in imported food while still being safe for human consumption, may be different from that in domestically produced food.

ANZFA recognises that changes to MRLs have implications for the importation of food, particularly where MRLs are reduced or deleted. To assist in identifying possible situations where imported food may be affected, ANZFA has compiled the following table of chemicals which have reductions or deletions of their MRL and the relevant imported food commodities for the years 1999 and 2000. ANZFA requests comment on the significance of the reductions and deletions to MRLS of the imported foods.

Chemical Food	**1999**	**2000**
Fipronil Cotton seed Cotton seed oil	 0 6kt	 0 22kt
Imidacloprid Apple	 33kt[1]	 16kt

[1] Kt – Kilotonne – 1,000 tonnes

Indoxacarb Cotton seed	0	0
Tebufenozide Dried grapes	1685 kt	1827 kt

6 CONCLUSION

The above Application fulfils the requirements for Preliminary Assessment as prescribed in section 13 of the *Australia New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991*.

A SUMMARY OF THE REQUESTED MRLS FOR EACH CHEMICAL AND AN OUTLINE OF THE INFORMATION SUPPORTING THE REQUESTED CHANGES TO VOLUME ONE AND VOLUME TWO OF THE *FOOD STANDARDS CODE*.

The Full Evaluation Reports for individual chemicals are available upon request from the relevant Project Manager at ANZFA.

NOTES ON TERMS USED IN THE TABLE

NEDI - National Estimated Dietary Intake - The NEDI represents a more realistic estimate of dietary exposure and is the preferred calculation. It may incorporate more refined food consumption data including that for specific sub-groups of the population. The NEDI calculation may take into account such factors as the proportion of the crop or commodity treated; residues in edible portions; the effects of processing and cooking on residue levels; and may use median residue levels from supervised trials other than the MRL to represent pesticide residue levels. In most cases the NEDI is still an overestimation because the above data is often not available and in these cases the MRL is used.

NESTI - National Estimated Short Term Intake is used to estimate acute dietary exposure. Acute (short term) dietary exposure assessments are undertaken when an acute reference dose (ARfD) has been determined for a chemical. Acute dietary exposures are normally only estimated based on consumption of raw unprocessed commodities (fruit and vegetables) but may include consideration of meat, offal, cereal, milk or dairy product consumption on a case-by-case basis.

The ARfD of a chemical is the estimate of the amount of a substance in food, expressed on a body weight basis, that can be ingested over a short period of time, usually during one meal or one day, without appreciable health risk to the consumer, on the basis of all the known facts at the time of evaluation. ANZFA has used ARfDs set by the TGA and Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues, the consumption data from the 1995 NNS and the MRL when the STMR is not available to calculate the NESTIs.

The NESTI calculation incorporates the large portion (97.5^{th} percentile) food consumption data and can take into account such factors as the highest residue on a composite sample of an edible portion; the supervised trials median residue (STMR), representing typical residue in an edible portion resulting from the maximum permitted pesticide use pattern; processing factors which affect changes from the raw commodity to the consumed food and the variability factor.

NTMDI - National Theoretical Maximum Dietary Intake - The NTMDI is a prediction of the long-term daily intake of a pesticide and is calculated by multiplying the MRLs established and proposed for a chemical by the average daily consumption for each food commodity across the whole population and summing the products.

While a useful screening tool, the NTMDI is an overestimate of the true pesticide residue intake because it assumes that the entire national crop is treated with a pesticide and that all the treated produce contains residues equivalent to the MRL.

Glossary;

1. **ADI** Acceptable Daily Intake.
2. **ARfD** Acute Reference Dose
3. **LOQ** Limit of Analytical Quantification.
4. **NESTI** National Estimated Short Term Intake
5. **NEDI** National Estimated Daily Intake.
6. **NTMDI** National Theoretical Maximum Daily Intake
7. ***** MRL set at or about the limit of analytical determination.
8. **T** Temporary MRL

CHEMICAL Food	**MRL** (gm/kg)	**INFORMATION**
B1. Deletions and reductions		
Fipronil Cotton seed Cotton seed oil, crude	 Delete T0.1 Add *0.01 Delete T0.05 Add *0.01	 Is used for the control of green mirids and thrips in cotton. NEDI = 51.22% 0f ADI
Imidacloprid Apple	 Delete T0.5 Add 0.3	Is used to for control of woolly aphid on apple trees NEDI = 3.5% of ADI
B2. Drafting errors and technical clarifications		
Chlorpyrifos Driedfruits Dried grapes (currants, raisins and sultanas)	 Delete 2 Add 2	 Emergency permit to control Australian Plague Locusts. NEDI = 83.22% of ADI
Cyprodinil Grapes	 Delete T2 Add 2	 The chemical is used for the control of grey mould (bunch rot). NEDI = 6.3% of ADI

Dithiocarbamates Passion fruit (including Granadilla)	Delete T3 Add 3	The Chemical is used to control anthracnose, spetoria spot and brown spot in passionfruit. The NRA has referred to the 1994 AMBS where the ADI for the dithiocarbamate, mancozeb was used to determine the % daily contribution based on the ADI. The range was 14.3% to 38.9% of the ADI. It should be noted that as residues in the whole fruit were below the LOQ and following normal commercial treatments, residues in the edible portion are also likely to be less than the LOQ. This would reduce the original estimate.
Fludioxonil Grapes	Delete T2 Add 2	The chemical is used for the control of grey mould (bunch rot). NEDI = 1.22% of ADI
Imidacloprid Sweet potato	Delete T*0.05 Add 0.05	The chemical is used for the control of white fly and melon thrips NEDI = 4.8% of ADI
CHEMICAL Food	**MRL** (gm/kg)	**INFORMATION**
B4. MRLs for new chemicals associated with a dietary exposure less than 90% of the ADI or less than 90% of the Acute Reference Dose where applicable		
Indoxacarb Cotton seed Edible offal (mammalian) Meat (mammalian) (in the fat) Milks (in the fat) Milks	Delete T3 Add 1 Delete T*0.01 Add *0.01 Delete T0.2 Add 0.5 Delete T0.5 Add 0.05	The chemical is used to control insect pests in cotton. NEDI = 42.67% of ADI

B6. MRLs for existing chemicals associated with a dietary exposure less than 90% of the ADI or less than 90% of the Acute Reference Dose where applicable		
Cyprodinil Dried grapes (currents, raisins and sultanas)	Add 5	The chemical is used to control grey mould (bunch rot) in grapes NEDI = 6.3% of ADI
Fipronil Rape seed	Delete T*0.01 Add *0.01	The chemical is used to control mites in canola. Maximum residues found in resultant grains after sowing and harvest were at the limit of quantitation. NEDI = 65.58% of ADI
Fludioxonil Edible offal (mammalian) Meat (mammalian) Milks	Add *0.05 Add *0.01 Add *0.01	Chemical used for the control of grey mould (bunch rot) in grapes. Treated grape waste can be fed to animals and hence the animal commodity MRLs are being included. NEDI = 1.22% of ADI
Glyphosate Passion fruit	Add T*0.05	Chemical used for the control of grasses and broadleaf weed in passionfruit. NEDI = 1.4% of ADI
Pymetrozine Apricot Nectarine Peach Plums (including prunes) Stone fruit	Add *0.05 Add *0.05 Add *0.05 Add *0.05 Delete T0.02	The chemical is used for the control of plant-sucking insects. NEDI = 3.6% of ADI
Tebufenozide Dried Grapes Grapes	Delete T8 Add 4 Delete T2 Add 2	The chemical is used to control light brown apple moths in grapes. NEDI = 22% of ADI

B8. MRLs for permits associated with a dietary exposure less than 90% of the ADI of less than 90% of the Acute Reference Dose where applicable		
Bifenthrin Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits	Add T*0.1	The chemical is used to control various insect pests in cucurbits. NEDI = 67.58 % of ADI
Captan Blueberries	Add 20	The chemical is used to control the fungus anthracnose in blueberries. NEDI = 20.92% of ADI
Diquat Sesame seed	Delete T2 Add 5	The chemical is used as a preharvest desiccant. NEDI = 49.47% of ADI
Fipronil Asparagus	Add T.01	The chemical is used to control garden weevil in asparagus. NEDI = 65.61% of ADI NESTI = 5% of ARfD
Fluvalinate Asparagus	Add T0.2	The chemical is used to control garden weevil on asparagus. NEDI = 14.62% of ADI
Imidacloprid Citrus fruits	Add T0.5	Trial permit for the use of the chemical to control Spined Citrus bug. NEDI = 4.8% of ADI
Novaluron Pome fruit	Add T1	The chemical is used to control codling moth and light brown apple moth on apples and pears. NTMDI = 29.52% of ADI
Phosphorous acid Pistachio nut	Delete T500 Add T1000	The chemical is used to control bacterial infection in pistachio trees. NEDI = 0.33% of ADI
Pymetrozine Cotton seed Cotton seed oil, edible Edible offal (mammalian) Meat (mammalian) Milks	Add T0.1 Add T*0.02 Add T*0.01 Add T*0.01 Add T*0.01	Trial permit for the use of the chemical to control aphids. NEDI = 3.6% of ADI

Tebufenozide Nectarines Peaches	 Add T1 Add T1	 The chemical is used to control moths in stone fruit. Data indicates that residues greater than 1 mg/kg are unlikely to occur in peaches and nectarines. In trials, residues in these fruits ranged from the limit of quantitation at 0.03mg/kg to 0.26mg/kg after harvest. NEDI = 22% of ADI

FOOD STANDARDS SETTING IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Governments of Australia and New Zealand entered an Agreement in December 1995 establishing a system for the development of joint food standards. On 24 November 2000, Health Ministers in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council (ANZFSC) agreed to adopt the new *Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code*. The new Code was gazetted on 20 December 2000 in both Australia and New Zealand as an alternate to existing food regulations until December 2002 when it will become the sole food code for both countries. It aims to reduce the prescription of existing food regulations in both countries and lead to greater industry innovation, competition and trade.

Until the joint *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* is finalised the following arrangements for the two countries apply:

- **Food imported into New Zealand other than from Australia** must comply with either Volume 1 (known as Australian *Food Standards Code)* or Volume 2 (known as the joint *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code)* of the Australian *Food Standards Code*, as gazetted in New Zealand, or the New Zealand *Food Regulations 1984,* but not a combination thereof. However, in all cases maximum residue limits for agricultural and veterinary chemicals must comply solely with those limits specified in the New Zealand *(Maximum Residue Limits of Agricultural Compounds) Mandatory Food Standard 1999.*

- **Food imported into Australia other than from New Zealand** must comply solely with Volume 1 (known as Australian *Food Standards Code)* or Volume 2 (known as the joint *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code)* of the Australian *Food Standards Code,* but not a combination of the two.

- **Food imported into New Zealand from Australia** must comply with either Volume 1 (known as Australian *Food Standards Code)* or Volume 2 (known as *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code)* of the Australian *Food Standards Code* as gazetted in New Zealand, but not a combination thereof. Certain foods listed in Standard T1 in Volume 1 may be manufactured in Australia to equivalent provisions in the New Zealand *Food Regulations 1984.*

- **Food imported into Australia from New Zealand** must comply with Volume 1 (known as Australian *Food Standards Code)* or Volume 2 (known as *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code)* of the Australian *Food Standards Code,* but not a combination of the two. However, under the provisions of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement, food may **also** be imported into Australia from New Zealand provided it complies with the New Zealand *Food Regulations 1984.*

- **Food manufactured in Australia and sold in Australia** must comply with Volume 1 (known as Australian *Food Standards Code)* or Volume 2 (known as *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code)* of the Australian *Food Standards Code* but not a combination of the two. Certain foods listed in Standard T1 in Volume 1 may be manufactured in Australia to equivalent provisions in the New Zealand *Food Regulations 1984.*

In addition to the above, all food sold in New Zealand must comply with the New Zealand *Fair Trading Act 1986* and all food sold in Australia must comply with the Australian *Trade Practices Act 1974*, and the respective Australian State and Territory *Fair Trading Acts.*

Any person or organisation may apply to ANZFA to have the *Food Standards Code* amended. In addition, ANZFA may develop proposals to amend the Australian *Food Standards Code* or to develop joint Australia New Zealand food standards. ANZFA can provide advice on the requirements for applications to amend the *Food Standards Code*.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Written submissions containing technical or other relevant information which will assist the Authority in undertaking a full assessment on matters relevant to the application, including consideration of its regulatory impact, are invited from interested individuals and organisations. Technical information presented should be in sufficient detail to allow independent scientific assessment.

Submissions providing more general comment and opinion are also invited. The Authority's policy on the management of submissions is available from the Standards Liaison Officer upon request.

The processes of the Authority are open to public scrutiny, and any submissions received will ordinarily be placed on the public register of the Authority and made available for inspection. If you wish any confidential information contained in a submission to remain confidential to the Authority, you should clearly identify the sensitive information and provide justification for treating it in confidence. The *Australia New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991* requires the Authority 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.

Following its full assessment of the application the Authority may prepare a draft standard or draft variation to a standard (and supporting draft regulatory impact statement), or decide to reject the application. If a draft standard or draft variation is prepared, it is then circulated to interested parties, including those from whom submissions were received, with a further invitation to make written submissions on the draft. Any such submissions will then be taken into consideration during the inquiry, which the Authority will hold to consider the draft standard or draft variation to a standard.

All correspondence and submissions on this matter should be addressed to the **Project Manager – Application A431** at one of the following addresses:

Australia New Zealand Food Authority
PO Box 7186
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610
AUSTRALIA
Tel (02) 6271 2222 Fax (02) 6271 2278

Australia New Zealand Food Authority
PO Box 10559
The Terrace WELLINGTON 6036
NEW ZEALAND
Fax (04) 473 9942 Fax (04) 473 9855

Submissions should be received by the Authority by: **11 July 2001**.

General queries on this matter and other Authority business can be directed to the Standards Liaison Officer at the above address or by Email on <slo@anzfa.gov.au>. Submissions should not be sent by email, as the Authority cannot guarantee receipt. Requests for more general information on the Authority can be directed to the Information Officer at the above address or by Email <info@anzfa.gov.au>.