



RE: P1028 Infant Formula Regulatory Requirements Public Submissions

To members of the FSANZ review board,

We are a New Zealand based Blending and Canning production facility that has been operating for 6 years. We specialise in Infant Formula and Dairy based Blends including products made from Sheep/Ovine milk base.

We have a customer base that includes Sheep Milk companies that we, are currently working with on new opportunities in the growing Infant Formula industry.

BODCO does understand and support the need for reviewing the regulatory requirements for infant formula to ensure nutritional supply of safe food to an important sensitive consumer population.

Currently BODCO assists with development of ovine infant formula offerings in the market, all of which are formulated to meet all applicable regulatory requirements including food safety and nutritional parameters.

We strongly oppose the proposal to exclude sheep proteins as a protein source in Infant products. Sheep milk formulas have a protein base that is very similar to other dairy protein sources, and these have been actively present in the global market for some time and are growing in popularity.

Sheep milking in New Zealand offers diversity and competition within the Dairy industry and there is a growing demand for Sheep based formula in our main export market China, where it is seen as a highly sought-after premium product.

BODCO is currently undergoing registration of a Sheep Milk Formula brand for the China market via SAMR approval which is a huge opportunity.

We believe this exclusion will have a devastating impact on both our customers and BODCO commercial production, if Sheep Milk formula is unable to be produced it will severely decrease the forecast production volumes at BODCO and will prevent any further growth in this sector.

We fully support our customers and the other submitters and agree with their scientific evidence in Ovine based protein infant formula as a suitable protein source and a good alternative to Caprine and Bovine options.

Finally, we support the emergence of sheep milk use in Infant formula in the New Zealand industry as in addition to being a suitable protein source, it offers an environmental benefit by having a lesser impact than other dairy practices which is important to the New Zealand made brand.

