

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

Due date of submission – 02 November 2017

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to respond to this application to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

The Application A1136 – Protein Glutaminase as a Processing Aid (Enzyme) has been submitted by Amano Enzyme Inc., and seeks permission to use an enzyme (protein glutaminase) produced and purified from *Chryseobacterium proteolyticum* strain AE-PG.

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report and the documentation provided by Amano Enzyme Inc. it is understood that:

- The purpose of the enzyme is to act as a processing aid, and enhance protein solubility to improve emulsification, foam stabilisation and gelling in proteinaceous foods.
- The enzyme, protein glutaminase is proposed to be sourced from the novel bacterium *Chryseobacterium proteolyticum* strain AE-PG. The source organism is not genetically modified, but has been obtained from a chemically mutated production strain. This is the first use of *C. proteolyticum* strain AE-PG to produce protein glutaminase.
- FSANZ concluded that there are no public health and safety issues associated with this specific strain. The FSANZ assessment report has identified that there is currently insufficient evidence to assess the safety of other strains of the species *C. proteolyticum*.
- The enzyme is inactivated during processing, and thus meets the requirements of a processing aid under the Code¹.
- *C. proteolyticum* has a history of safe use overseas in the production of protein glutaminase for use as a food processing aid. Protein glutaminase from *C. proteolyticum* has been approved for use in France and the US.

The departments acknowledge that no toxicity or allergenicity concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment of this Application. On this basis, the departments support the progression of Application A1136.

¹ 'a substance that is used as a processing aid in relation to a food is a reference to a substance that is used during the course of processing:

- (a) to perform a technological purpose in the course of processing; and
- (b) does not perform a technological purpose in the food for sale '