

**Application A1192 – Food derived from herbicide-tolerant corn line MON87429**

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

**Due date of submission – 21 May 2020**

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).

Application A1192 – Food derived from herbicide-tolerant corn line MON87429 seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from corn line MON87429 that has been genetically modified (GM) to provide tolerance to glufosinate, dicamba, 2,4-D and the aryloxyphenoxypropionate group of herbicides.

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report it is understood that:

- The purpose of this application is to offer growers increased flexibility in weed control and facilitate hybrid seed production through tissue-specific glyphosate tolerance.
- Food derived from MON87429 is proposed to enter in the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products in the form of starch, grits, meal, flour, oil and sweetener products.
- These highly refined products are unlikely to contain any novel protein or DNA, and so would not require GM labelling. However, it is understood that any products that do contain the novel protein or DNA, such as corn meal and grits, would be subject to the GM labelling requirements under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, enabling consumers to make informed choices.
- Commercial cultivation of MON87429 is likely to occur predominantly in North America. There is currently no intention by the applicant to seek approval to grow this GM corn variety in Australia or New Zealand.
- FSANZ approval is required to ensure that foods derived from corn line MON87429, and products containing these foods as ingredients, may legally be imported, sold and used in Australia and New Zealand.

On the basis that no toxicity, allergenicity, or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment, the departments support the progression of the Application A1192.