

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

Due date of submission – 9 July 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 A1199 – Food derived from Innate potato lines V11 & Z6 seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from genetically modified (GM) potato lines which have reduced acrylamide potential, reduced browning (blackspot bruising) and disease resistance to foliar late blight.

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

- Potato lines V11 and V6 were generated from a two-step transformation process using a common potato variety (Snowden). The genetic modification provides disease resistance to foliar late blight, reduced blackspot bruising and reduced acrylamide potential.
- The applicant is seeking approval primarily to protect international trade. At the time of the application, there was no intention to import food derived from potato lines V11 and Z6 into Australia and New Zealand.
- Food derived from potato lines V11 and V6 could potentially enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products in the form of french fries, potato crisps, potato flour or potato starch.
- Cooked and processed products derived from lines V11 and Z6 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 V11 and V6 is likely to occur predominantly in North America. There is currently no intention by the applicant to seek approval to grow these GM potato lines in Australia or New Zealand.
- FSANZ approval is required to ensure that foods derived from potato lines V11 and Z6, and products containing these foods as ingredients, may legally be imported, sold and used in Australia and New Zealand.

No toxicity, allergenicity, or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in the food safety assessment. Moreover, FSANZ's food safety assessment has concluded that food derived from potato lines V11 and Z6 is considered to be as safe for human consumption as food derived from conventional potato varieties.

On this basis, the departments support the progression of the Application A1199.