

Application A1216 – Food derived from herbicide-tolerant canola line MON94100

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

Due date of submission – 1 March 2021

The Victorian Departments of Health 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 A1216 – Food derived from herbicide-tolerant canola line MON94100 seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from canola line MON94100 that has been genetically modified (GM) to provide tolerance to the herbicide dicamba (3,6-dichloro-2-methoxybenzoic acid). The purpose of this application is to offer increased flexibility in weed control through this dicamba tolerance. FSANZ has previously approved the sale and use of food derived from dicamba tolerant lines in four different applications: A1063 (MON87708 soybean); A1080 (MON88701 cotton); A1118 (MON87419 corn); and A1192 (MON87429 corn).

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

- Food derived from MON94100 is proposed to enter in the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products in the form of oil and canola meal.
- The 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 canola meal, 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 MON94100 is likely to occur predominantly in North America. There is currently no intention by the applicant to seek approval to grow this GM canola variety in Australia or New Zealand.
- FSANZ approval is required to ensure that foods derived from canola line MON94100, and products containing these foods as ingredients, may legally be imported, sold and used in Australia and New Zealand.
- This application was assessed by FSANZ and the Food Directorate of Health Canada using a shared safety assessment approach for GM food approval.

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 A1216.