

Project Officer Application A1243
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace
Wellington 6036

17 August 2023

Tēnā koe,

A1243 - Harmonisation of marine biotoxins standards for bivalve shellfish

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) has the following comments to make:

NZFS supports amending Schedule 19 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to align the maximum levels (MLs) for diarrhetic shellfish toxins and paralytic shellfish toxins with the MLs set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and those under the New Zealand Regulated Control Scheme - Bivalve Molluscan Shellfish for Human Consumption.

We note that the amendments will lower the existing MLs for diarrhetic shellfish toxins and paralytic shellfish toxins in the Code and therefore pose no health and safety concerns.

We also note the change includes a one-year transition period during which a food product may comply with either the existing requirements in Schedule 19, or with the Code as amended. After the transition period, all bivalve molluscs for sale in the Australian and New Zealand markets will have to comply with the new requirements set out in the proposed draft variation.

