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[REDACTED], July 3, 2023

Dear Sirs,

RE: FSANZ Application to change the Food Standards Code: A1268 – Steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion using new enzymes produced by GM Escherichia coli

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Stevia Council (ISC) in support of the application A1268 for Steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion using new enzymes produced by GM Escherichia coli.

The ISC supports to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standard Code Schedule 18 to permit three enzymes from GM Escherichia coli strain K-12 as processing aids in the manufacture of steviol glycosides from stevia leaf extracts.

ISC is in full support of the draft food regulatory measure, as prepared.

This change in code will help the industry to advance in sustainable and cost-effective sources of steviol glycosides resulting in a competitive market for non-caloric sweeteners. Expanded availability of sugar alternatives for the development of table top sweeteners and other foods further supports public health directives to decrease sugar and calorie intakes in foods and offer consumers an additional alternative to the current available nonnutritive sweeteners.

The International Stevia Council (ISC) is a global trade association representing the stevia industry, including stevia leaf growers and producers, stevia extracts and steviol glycosides producers, solutions providers and users of steviol glycosides in final consumer products. ISC activities aim at improving the diets and health of people globally by addressing sugars and calories in food.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide our support of this amendment.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]

INTERNATIONAL
 STEVIA
COUNCIL

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