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**Subject:** PUBLIC SUBMISSION: APPLICATION A1039 LOW THC HEMP AS A FOOD.  
  
**Categories:** Blue Category

## PUBLIC SUBMISSION: APPLICATION A1039 LOW THC HEMP AS A FOOD.

Dear sir/madam,

As Australian citizen and professional in the area of food safety I would like to submit my comments for your consideration regarding the use of foods derived from hemp.

The primary issue of any evaluation is the question of benefit and risk.

The benefit of new source of food is obvious, especially now when the recent worldwide shortage of food was reported. The risk of food derived from hemp has to be controlled and it should not be treated differently from any other risks associated with approval of food.

The presence of psychoactive THC is no different to morphines in poppy, alcohol in yogurt and cocaine in coca leaves used for soft drinks, alkaloids in tea and coffee, which are examples of risk that is successfully controlled. These are a few examples of foods that derived or contain psychoactive substances. However, there are numerous examples of food sources that contain dangerous, often highly toxic substances that are successfully used for food. One of such examples is cotton. Cotton seeds contain highly toxic compound gossypol. This kind of risks can be controlled by selection of plants with low levels of undesirable compounds and by food processing technology.

The risk associated with public perception of acceptability and safety of cannabis on my opinion is not significant and is no bigger than that for morphines in poppy.

The risk that should be evaluated is the risk of crime associated with extraction of THC but this also can be successfully controlled as for other foods derived from commodities containing psychoactive and toxic components.

It is not clear from the document are any allergy ever reported that are caused by this products and what are other components of hemp that will migrate to food.

Because of the presence of psychoactive THC in hemp the report is structured with the primary aim to demonstrate that the foods will be free from it. Report does not describe other components of hemp, e.g. if oil will be used what are components of oil. Is this oil good to be taken?

A summary of the toxicological studies performed on hemp products will be useful for better understanding of risk of foods derived from hemp.

Kind regards,

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