

Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources

Due date – 6 November 2015

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs Transport & Resources and PrimeSafe (Victoria) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1111 – Bacteriophage S16 and FO1a as a Processing Aid.

Application A1111, submitted by Microcos B.V., seeks approval for *Salmonex*TM, a preparation of two *Salmonella*-specific phages (S16 and FO1a), for use as a processing aid. The application seeks approval for use of the preparation as a treatment during post-slaughter processing of fresh meat and poultry products to control *Salmonella* species.

Victoria supports the FSANZ risk assessment findings that, when *Salmonex*TM is used as is proposed: the preparation is unlikely to pose any health risk; it has been shown to be efficacious at reducing *Salmonella* species; and there is no ongoing technological function, as the phages remain active for only a short time following application and therefore classification as a processing aid is appropriate.

It is noted that, as is stated in the risk assessment, any business that employs this product to control *Salmonella* spp. must be aware of obligations under Standard 1.2.3 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, which states that potentially allergenic soybean products, which may be present in the phage preparation, must be declared in a warning statement.

Victoria is of the view that, given the public health importance and the high rates of salmonellosis in Australia, the use of *Salmonex*TM as a processing aid for the post-slaughter treatment of raw meat and poultry would provide an additional option for industry to assist in the control *Salmonella* species. On this basis, the progression of Application A1111 is supported.