

UNCLASSIFIED

New Zealand Food Safety

Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

31 August 2018

Project Officer Application A1129
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6036

Dear Sir/Madam

Application A1129 – Monk Fruit Extract as a Food Additive – Call for Submissions

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has the following comments to make.

MPI supports the proposed use of monk fruit extract as an intense sweetener, noting that FSANZ concluded that there were no public health and safety issues associated with this use and that an acceptable daily intake (ADI) “not specified” is appropriate. We note the relatively narrow range of permissions and the setting of numerical maximum permitted levels, may be viewed as being conservative when compared to other food additives with an ADI not specified. Some further comment in the Approval Report on this would be helpful, in particular why numerical maximum permitted levels are proposed rather than setting these to GMP. Furthermore, it may be appropriate to place this permission in Schedule 16.

MPI notes that FSANZ does not provide comment on the lack of a JECFA ADI other than that no data were submitted to JECFA in 2014 to allow consideration. FSANZ may wish to comment further on the data currently available and whether the applicant or supplier of monk fruit extract has indicated an intention to request a further JECFA specification and safety evaluation. If not we question why not?

MPI questions whether the alternative name *luo han guo extract* for labelling purposes is required. MPI suggests that an INS number is needed in the near future to allow a suitable number to be added into the Code and for use internationally, to ensure consistency in labelling with other sweeteners and food additives. Therefore, MPI suggests that FSANZ takes steps preferably working with the applicant to ensure an INS number is requested as soon as possible through the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Yours sincerely

UNCLASSIFIED



