

30 August 2018

FROM:

International Stevia Council

Avenue de Tervueren 188a, Postbox 4
B-1150 Brussels, Belgium

TO: Food Standards Australia New Zealand

RE: Submission – Application A1157, Enzymatic production of Rebaudioside M

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, 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.

We would like to support: a) the application made by Blue California to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to include a new specification for Rebaudioside M (Reb M) produced by an enzymatic conversion method; and b) the draft food regulatory measure prepared by Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

ISC is in full support of the draft food regulatory measure as prepared and proposed by FSANZ.

We are aligned with the FSANZ assessment that there are no public health and safety risks associated with the use of Blue California's Reb M steviol glycosides produced using enzymes from *P. pastoris*.

This approval is important for the food industry and for consumers as it offers an additional alternative to the currently available non-nutritive sweeteners. Expanded availability of sugar alternatives for the development of table top sweeteners and other food products further supports public health directions to decrease sugar and calorie intakes in foods.

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

Kind regards,