

Comments from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Due date of submission – 5 November 2019

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the departments) welcome the opportunity to respond to this application to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has called for submissions to Application A1174 - Xylanase from *Trichoderma reesei* as a processing aid (enzyme). The Application seeks permission to use endo-1,4-beta-xylanase (also known as xylanase) derived from a genetically modified strain of *T. reesei* as a processing aid.

From the FSANZ's assessment report it is understood that:

- Xylanase from *T. reesei* (the enzyme) is proposed for use in the production of bakery and other cereal-based products. The enzyme would not perform an ongoing function in these products, and therefore meets the requirements of the Code for a processing aid.
- The enzyme is derived from a genetically modified strain of *T. reesei* containing the gene for endo-1,4-beta-xylanase from *Aspergillus niger*.
- The safety of *T. reesei* (the production microorganism) and *A. niger* (the donor microorganism) has previously been assessed by FSANZ and the Code currently permits several enzymes derived from these microorganisms.
- The enzyme, xylanase, has received Generally Recognised as Safe (GRAS) approval and is permitted for use as a processing aid in the United States. It is also approved for use in food production in Denmark, Norway and Peru.
- No genetically modified DNA or novel protein will remain in the final product treated with the enzyme. Therefore, there are no genetically modified labelling requirements for use of this enzyme when used as a processing aid in the production of food.

The departments acknowledge that no public health and safety concerns were raised by FSANZ in its risk assessment of this application. On this basis, the departments support the progression of Application A1174.