

5 September 2019
[93-19]

Call for submissions – Application A1171

Endo-inulinase from *Aspergillus oryzae* as a processing aid (enzyme)

FSANZ has assessed an application made by Puratos NV to permit the use of the enzyme endo-inulinase, from a genetically modified strain of *Aspergillus oryzae* as a processing aid in hydrolysing inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS), and has prepared a draft food regulatory measure. Pursuant to section 31 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act), FSANZ now calls for submissions to assist consideration of the draft food regulatory measure.

For information about making a submission, visit the FSANZ website at [information for submitters](#).

All submissions on applications and proposals will be published on our website. We will not publish material that we accept as confidential, but will record that such information is held. In-confidence submissions may be subject to release under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*. Submissions will be published as soon as possible after the end of the public comment period. Where large numbers of documents are involved, FSANZ will make these available on CD, rather than on the website.

Under section 114 of the FSANZ Act, some information provided to FSANZ cannot be disclosed. More information about the disclosure of confidential commercial information is available on the FSANZ website at [information for submitters](#).

Submissions should be made in writing; be marked clearly with the word 'Submission' and quote the correct project number and name. While FSANZ accepts submissions in hard copy to our offices, it is more convenient to receive submissions electronically through the FSANZ website via the link on [documents for public comment](#). You can also email your submission directly to submissions@foodstandards.gov.au.

There is no need to send a hard copy of your submission if you have submitted it by email or via the FSANZ website. FSANZ endeavours to formally acknowledge receipt of submissions within 3 business days.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 6pm (Canberra time) 17 October 2019

Submissions received after this date will not be considered unless an extension had been given before the closing date. Extensions will only be granted due to extraordinary circumstances during the submission period. Any agreed extension will be notified on the FSANZ website and will apply to all submitters.

Questions about making submissions or the application process can be sent to standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au.

Hard copy submissions may be sent to one of the following addresses:

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Supporting document

The [following document](#)¹ which informed the assessment of this application is available on the FSANZ website:

SD1 Risk and Technical Assessment Report

¹<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1171EndoinulinasefromGMAaspergillusorzyzaeasaPAEnzyme-.aspx>

Executive summary

Puratos NV is seeking permission to use the enzyme endo-inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7), from a genetically modified (GM) strain of *Aspergillus oryzae* (*A. oryzae*), as a processing aid in hydrolysing inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS).

FOS can be used in a variety of foods including dairy products, cereal bars, meal replacement beverages, infant formula and baby foods as a sugar alternative, low caloric bulking agent and for dietary fibre supplementation.

Enzymes used to produce and manufacture food are considered processing aids and are regulated by Standards 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.3.3 and Schedule 18 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). If approved for use, this enzyme would be listed in the Table to subsection S18—9, which includes enzymes permitted for use for a specific technological purpose.

A. oryzae is non-pathogenic and has an extensive history of safe use in fermentation in the food industry. It is the production organism for numerous enzyme processing aids, including 18 that are already permitted in the Code. The endo-inulinase in this application is derived from a GM strain of *A. oryzae* (strain MUCL 44346), expressing an endo-inulinase gene from *Aspergillus ficuum*.

After undertaking a risk assessment, FSANZ concludes that there are no public health and safety concerns associated with the use of endo-inulinase. In the absence of any identifiable hazard, an acceptable daily intake (ADI) of 'not specified' is appropriate. A dietary exposure assessment was therefore not required.

The stated technological purpose of this enzyme is clearly articulated in the application. The evidence presented to support the proposed use of the enzyme provides adequate assurance that the enzyme, in the recommended form and amounts is technologically justified and has been demonstrated to be effective in achieving its stated purpose. The enzyme meets international purity specifications.

FSANZ has therefore prepared a draft variation to the Code to permit the enzyme endo-inulinase derived from a GM strain of *A. oryzae*, containing the inulinase gene from *Aspergillus ficuum*, as a processing aid in hydrolysing inulin to produce FOS, subject to the condition that the amount of enzyme used must be consistent with good manufacturing practice (GMP).

1 Introduction

1.1 The applicant

Puratos NV (Puratos), Belgium, is a company that develops, produces, distributes and markets raw materials for the bakery, confectionery, chocolate and catering industry.

1.2 The application

The purpose of the application is to seek permission to use the enzyme endo-inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7) from a genetically modified (GM) strain of *Aspergillus oryzae* (*A. oryzae*) as a processing aid in hydrolysing inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS).

Inulin is a generic term used to describe polysaccharides of various lengths composed of fructose, typically with a single terminal glucose. Foods that are naturally high in inulin include chicory root, Jerusalem artichoke, garlic and onion. Inulins are resistant to hydrolysis by intestinal digestive enzymes. As such, they are classified as 'non-digestible' carbohydrates and have reduced caloric value.

Endo-inulinase breaks down (2→1)-β-D-fructosidic linkages in inulin to form shorter chains of FOS. FOS is highly soluble and has technological properties similar to those of sugar. FOS can be used in a variety of foods such as dairy products, cereal bars, meal replacement beverages, infant formula and infant foods as a sugar alternative, low caloric bulking agent and for dietary fibre supplementation.

The enzyme preparation will be used as a processing aid where the enzyme is not present or active in the final food or else present in negligible amounts with no technological function in FOS or the final food to which FOS is added. In producing FOS, the enzyme is subjected to an evaporation step which involves temperatures of up to 95°C, which inactivates the enzyme.

The enzyme is sourced from a GM strain of *A. oryzae* (strain MUCL 44346), expressing an endo-inulinase gene from *Aspergillus ficuum*. This proprietary strain from Puratos will provide food processors with an alternative enzyme preparation for producing FOS. Although sourced from a GM organism, the enzyme itself is not protein engineered.

The endo-inulinase is produced by submerged fermentation, which involves the growth of the microorganism and production of the enzyme. Subsequent steps involve the separation of the enzyme from the fermentation medium, purification and formulation of the enzyme preparation.

1.3 The current standard

Australian and New Zealand food laws require food for sale must comply with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). The requirements relevant to this application are summarised below.

Permitted use

Enzymes used to process and manufacture food are considered processing aids. Paragraph 1.1.1—10(6)(c) of the Code provides that a food for sale must not have, as an ingredient or a component, a substance that is used as a processing aid, unless expressly permitted.

Section 1.1.2—13 of the Code defines the expression 'used as a processing aid'. That definition imposes certain conditions on substances permitted by Standard 1.3.3 and

Schedule 18 to be used as a processing aid, such that it does not perform a technological function in the final food for sale.

Standard 1.3.3 and Schedule 18 of the Code list the permitted processing aids. Enzymes of microbial origin permitted to be used as processing aids are listed in the table to subsection S18—4(5) or in the table to subsection S18—9(3) of Schedule 18, depending on whether a technological purpose has been specified.

Paragraph 1.1.1—10(6)(g) requires that the presence as an ingredient or component in a food for sale of a food produced using gene technology must be expressly permitted by the Code. Section 1.5.2—3 of Standard 1.5.2 provides that permission in the Code for use as a processing aid also constitutes the permission required by paragraph 1.1.1—10(6)(g).

Identity and purity requirements

Subsection 1.1.1—15(1)(b) of the Code requires substances used as processing aids to comply with any relevant identity and purity specifications listed in Schedule 3 of the Code.

Labelling requirements

Subsection 1.1.1—10(8) of the Code provides that food for sale must comply with all relevant labelling requirements imposed by the Code for that food.

Paragraphs 1.2.4—3(2)(d) and (e) exempt processing aids from the requirement to be declared in the statement of ingredients, unless other requirements prevail.

Section 1.5.2—4 requires processing aids that are foods produced using gene technology to be labelled 'genetically modified', where novel DNA and/or novel protein from the processing aid remains present in the final food. The requirement applies to foods for sale that consist of or have as an ingredient, food that is a genetically modified food. The requirements imposed by section 1.5.2—4 generally apply only to foods for retail sale and to foods sold to a caterer under subsection 1.2.1—8(1) and section 1.2.1—15 respectively.

1.3.1 International standards

The Codex Alimentarius does not establish standards for processing aids or for enzymes. Individual countries regulate the use of enzymes differently to the Code. However, there are internationally recognised specifications for enzymes. These enzyme specifications are established by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) (FAO/WHO 2017) and the Food Chemicals Codex (Food Chemicals Codex 2018).

1.4 Reasons for accepting application

The application was accepted for assessment because:

- it complied with the procedural requirements under subsection 22(2) of the FSANZ Act; and
- it related to a matter that might be developed as a food regulatory measure.

1.5 Procedure for assessment

The application is being assessed under the General Procedure.

2 Summary of the assessment

2.1 Risk assessment

There are no public health and safety concerns associated with the use of endo-inulinase from *A. oryzae* as a food processing aid.

The production organism is not toxigenic nor pathogenic. *A. oryzae* has a long history of safe use as the production organism for a number of enzyme processing aids that are already permitted in the Code. Molecular characterisation of the production strain confirmed the sequence of the inserted DNA has not undergone any rearrangement, and the introduced DNA is stably inherited.

This endo-inulinase has been legally used in the EU, with no reports of adverse effects in consumers.

Results of genotoxicity assays were negative, and the enzyme shows no significant homology with known protein toxins. The No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) in a 13-week repeat-dose oral gavage study in rats was 27500 UI/kg bw/day, equivalent in Total Organic Solids (TOS) to 189.65 mg/kg bw/day. The Theoretical Maximum Daily Intake (TMDI), expressed in TOS is 0.0069 mg/kg bw/day, and the Margin of Exposure (MoE) is therefore 27,486.

Bioinformatic analysis identified potential homology to minor allergens in tomato. Tomato is not considered a major allergen and is widely used in food.

Based on the reviewed toxicological data it is concluded that in the absence of any identifiable hazard, an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) of 'not specified' is appropriate. A dietary exposure assessment was therefore not required.

The evidence presented to support the proposed use of the enzyme provides adequate assurance that the enzyme, in its recommended form and amounts, is technologically justified and has been demonstrated to be effective in achieving its stated purpose. The enzyme meets international purity specifications.

For further details on the risk assessment, refer to the Risk and Technical Assessment Report (SD1).

2.2 Risk management

The Risk and Technical Assessment Report concluded that there are no safety concerns from using this enzyme for its stated purpose, in the form and quantities consistent with GMP. As processing aids require permissions in the Code, the main risk management option available to FSANZ is to approve or reject the request to amend the Code and, if approved, to impose any conditions that may be appropriate. Other risk management considerations for this application are related to enzyme nomenclature and labelling, which are discussed below. The regulatory options analysed in section 2.4.1.1 take account of the safety of the enzyme.

If permitted, the food industry will have access to an alternative source of endo-inulinase to produce FOS.

2.2.1 Regulatory approval for enzymes

The risk assessment concluded that there are no public health and safety concerns

associated with the use of this enzyme. Therefore, FSANZ prepared a draft variation to permit the use of the enzyme as a processing aid for its stated purpose.

The express permission for the enzyme to be used as a processing aid will also provide the permission for the enzyme's potential presence in the food for sale as a food produced using gene technology. The enzyme is a food produced using gene technology for Code purposes as it is derived from 'an organism that has been modified using gene technology'. Paragraph 1.1.1—10(6)(g) requires that the presence as an ingredient or component in a food for sale of a food produced using gene technology must be expressly permitted by the Code. Section 1.5.2—3 of Standard 1.5.2 provides that permission for use as a processing aid also constitutes the permission required by paragraph 1.1.1—10(6)(g).

2.2.2 Microorganism and enzyme nomenclature

FSANZ noted that the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), the internationally recognised authority for enzyme nomenclature, uses the 'accepted' name 'inulinase' for the enzyme with an EC number of EC 3.2.1.7 (IUBMB 2017). 'Other' names for this enzyme include 'endo-inulinase', which is the name used throughout the application, this document, and Supporting Document 1. However, the accepted name 'inulinase', with the EC number EC 3.2.1.7 is the name that will be used in the proposed draft variation to the Code for this enzyme.

The nomenclature of the gene donor and production microorganisms were checked and confirmed as being appropriate as listed in the application (see section 3.1 of SD1). The source organism *A. oryzae* is already permitted as a production microorganism for numerous enzymes within Schedule 18.

2.2.3 Labelling requirements

The risk assessment concluded that the use of the enzyme poses no public health and safety concerns and that it performs its technological purpose as a processing aid. Therefore, the generic exemption from declaration of processing aids in the statement of ingredients will apply to foods containing this processing aid.

2.2.3.1 Labelling requirements for food produced using gene technology

Section 2.1.2 of SD1 states that the enzyme is denatured as a result of high temperatures used in subsequent steps in the production of FOS. Denaturation of the enzyme protein does not alter the status of the food as being GM.

The requirements for labelling as 'genetically modified' differ depending on whether the GM food is an ingredient of the food for sale or not, as follows. If a food for retail sale or sold to a caterer contains the denatured enzyme endo-inulinase as an ingredient, that food would be required to be labelled 'genetically modified' in conjunction with the name of the processing aid, if novel DNA or novel protein from the GM strain of *A. oryzae* (that is the source microorganism, not the enzyme) remains in that food.

FSANZ however, also notes the enzyme is used to manufacture FOS. If FOS is not a food for sale itself but is used as an ingredient in a food for retail sale or in food sold to a caterer, the enzyme would not be an ingredient in the food for sale containing the FOS. The requirement to label as 'genetically modified' would not apply to that food for sale because the labelling requirements only apply to food that consists of, or has as an ingredient, a GM food (section 1.5.2—4(1)).

2.2.4 Risk management conclusion

The risk management conclusion is to add the permission for endo-inulinase derived from a GM strain of *A. oryzae*, expressing an endo-inulinase gene from *A. ficuum*, as a processing aid into the table to S18—9(3), which includes enzymes permitted for a specific technological purpose. The technological purpose is for the hydrolysis of inulin to produce FOS. The maximum permitted level is an amount consistent with GMP.

2.3 Risk communication

2.3.1 Consultation

Consultation is a key part of FSANZ's standards development process. FSANZ developed and applied a standard communication strategy to this application. All calls for submissions are notified via the Food Standards Notification Circular, media release, FSANZ's social media tools and Food Standards News.

The process by which FSANZ approaches standards development matters is open, accountable, consultative and transparent. Public submissions are called to obtain the views of interested parties on issues raised by the application and the impacts of regulatory options.

The draft variation will be considered for approval by the FSANZ Board taking into account public comments received from this call for submissions.

2.3.2 World Trade Organization (WTO)

As members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Australia and New Zealand are obliged to notify WTO members where proposed mandatory regulatory measures are inconsistent with any existing or imminent international standards and the proposed measure may have a significant effect on trade.

There are no relevant international standards (i.e. Codex Alimentarius Standards) and amending the Code to approve the enzyme as a processing aid is unlikely to have a significant effect on international trade. The enzyme that is the subject of this application has been submitted for evaluation to JECFA² and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The outcomes of these evaluations were still pending at the time of preparing this document.

Furthermore, this enzyme is consistent with specifications in the latest edition of the JECFA General Specifications and Considerations for Enzyme Preparations Used in Food Processing (FAO/WHO 2017) and the Food Chemicals Codex specifications for enzymes (Food Chemicals Codex 11th edition (2018)).

Therefore, a notification to the WTO under Australia's and New Zealand's obligations under the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade or Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement was not considered necessary.

2.4 FSANZ Act assessment requirements

When assessing this application and the subsequent development of a food regulatory measure, FSANZ has had regard to the following matters in section 29 of the FSANZ Act:

² https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/codex_ccfa_49_cl-2016-13-fa_inulinase.pdf

2.4.1 Section 29

2.4.1.1 Consideration of costs and benefits

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) granted FSANZ a standing exemption from the requirement to develop a Regulatory Impact Statement for permitting new processing aids (OBPR correspondence dated 24 November 2010, reference 12065). This standing exemption was provided as permitting processing aids is machinery in nature and their use is voluntary. This standing exemption relates to the introduction of a food to the food supply that has been determined to be safe.

FSANZ, however, has given consideration to the costs and benefits that may arise from the proposed measure for the purposes of meeting FSANZ Act considerations. The FSANZ Act requires FSANZ to have regard to whether costs that would arise from the proposed measure outweigh the direct and indirect benefits to the community, government or industry that would arise from the proposed measure (S.29 (2)(a)).

The purpose of this consideration is to determine if the community, government, and industry as a whole is likely to benefit, on balance, from a move from the status quo (i.e. rejecting the application). This analysis considers permitting the use of endo-inulinase as a processing aid. FSANZ is of the view that no other realistic food regulatory measures exist, however information received may result in FSANZ arriving at a different outcome.

The consideration of the costs and benefits in this section is not intended to be an exhaustive, quantitative economic analysis of the proposed measures and, in fact, most of the effects that were considered cannot easily be assigned a dollar value. Rather, the assessment seeks to highlight the likely positives and negatives of moving away from the status quo by permitting the use of the enzyme.

Costs and benefits of permitting the use of enzyme endo-inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7) from a GM strain of A. oryzae as a processing aid

A. oryzae is the production organism for numerous enzyme processing aids, including 18 that are already permitted in the Code. The endo-inulinase in this application is derived from a GM strain of *A. oryzae* (strain MUCL 44346), expressing an endo-inulinase gene from *A. ficuum*. Different inulinase preparations have different optimal pH and temperature ranges, to suit a range of food processing environments. Therefore, this particular endo-inulinase will provide manufacturers of FOS with an alternative enzyme preparation, thus giving them a wider choice of products to suit their specific food processing application.

Due to the voluntary nature of the permission, industry will only use the enzyme where they believe a net benefit exists. There are other inulinase preparations available to industry and it is of benefit to industry to have additional choice available to them, especially where the enzyme is more effective or cheaper.

The enzyme is currently used in the US and EU. This may be a business opportunity for Australian and New Zealand industries, although there may also be competing imports from these countries into the domestic market.

Endo-inulinase breaks down (2→1)-β-D-fructosidic linkages in inulin to form shorter chains of FOS. FOS can be used in a variety of foods including dairy products, cereal bars, meal replacement beverages, infant formula and baby foods as a sugar alternative, low caloric bulking agent and for dietary fibre supplementation. This may expand the range of these products available to consumers.

Where using this endo-inulinase enzyme is more effective or cheaper for manufacturers,

there may be benefits to the consumer where cost savings are passed on.

Permitting the enzyme may result in a small cost to government in terms of adding the enzyme to the current range of processing aids that are monitored for compliance.

Conclusions from cost benefit considerations

FSANZ's assessment is that the direct and indirect benefits that would arise from permitting the use of this endo-inulinase as a processing aid outweigh the associated costs.

2.4.1.2 Other measures

There are no other measures (whether available to FSANZ or not) that would be more cost-effective than a food regulatory measure developed or varied as a result of the application.

2.4.1.3 Any relevant New Zealand standards

Standards 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.3.3 and Schedule 18 apply in both Australia and New Zealand and there are no other relevant New Zealand only standards.

2.4.1.4 Any other relevant matters

Other relevant matters are considered below.

2.4.2 Subsection 18(1)

FSANZ has also considered the three objectives in subsection 18(1) of the FSANZ Act during the assessment.

2.4.2.1 Protection of public health and safety

FSANZ undertook a safety assessment (SD1) and concluded there were no public health and safety concerns associated with the use of this enzyme.

2.4.2.2 The provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices

The labelling considerations for the enzyme processing aid are discussed in section 2.2.3.

2.4.2.3 The prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct

There were no issues identified with this application relevant to this objective.

2.4.3 Subsection 18(2) considerations

FSANZ has also had regard to:

- **the need for standards to be based on risk analysis using the best available scientific evidence**

FSANZ used the best available scientific evidence to conduct the risk analysis, which is provided in SD1 – the Risk and Technical Assessment Report. The applicant submitted a dossier of scientific studies as part of its application. Other technical information including scientific literature was also used in assessing the application.

- **the promotion of consistency between domestic and international food standards**

There are no Codex Alimentarius Standards for processing aids or enzymes. However, it meets the general specifications for enzymes set out in the JECFA Compendium of Food Additive Specifications and the Food Chemicals Codex specifications for enzymes.

- **the desirability of an efficient and internationally competitive food industry**

The enzyme is already used in a number of countries, and it is currently being evaluated by JECFA and EFSA. Therefore, the approval for use of this enzyme would bring Australia and New Zealand into line with jurisdictions overseas. In this way, Australia and New Zealand will remain competitive with international markets.

The conclusion of the risk assessment is there are no public health and safety concerns associated with the production microorganism or with using the enzyme as a food processing aid. It is therefore appropriate that Australian and New Zealand food industries are given the opportunity to benefit from this alternative enzyme preparation for the production of FOS.

Ultimately, the domestic food industry will make their own economic decisions, taking into account the costs and benefits of using the new enzyme, to determine if it is of benefit to their particular business.

- **the promotion of fair trading in food**

FSANZ identified no issues relevant to this objective. As mentioned above, FSANZ's risk assessment is that there are no public health and safety concerns associated with the production microorganism or enzyme.

- **any written policy guidelines formulated by the Forum on Food Regulation**

The Ministerial Policy Guideline *Addition to Food of Substances other than Vitamins and Minerals*³ includes specific order policy principles for substances added to achieve a solely technological function, such as processing aids. These specific order policy principles state that permission should be granted where:

- the purpose for adding the substance can be articulated clearly by the manufacturer as achieving a solely technological function (i.e. the 'stated purpose')
- the addition of the substance to food is safe for human consumption
- the amounts added are consistent with achieving the technological function
- the substance is added in a quantity and a form which is consistent with delivering the stated purpose
- no nutrition, health or related claims are to be made in regard to the substance.

FSANZ determined that permitting this enzyme is consistent with these specific order policy principles for 'Technological Function'.

3 Draft variation

The draft variation to the Code is at Attachment A and is intended to take effect on gazettal.

A draft explanatory statement is at Attachment B. An explanatory statement is required to accompany an instrument if it is lodged on the Federal Register of Legislation.

³ <http://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/food-policies>

4 References

FAO/WHO (2017) General specifications and considerations for enzyme preparations used in food processing. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0691e/A0691E03.htm>

IUBMB (2017) EC 3.2.1.7. <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sbcs/iubmb/enzyme/EC3/2/1/7.html>

The United States Pharmacopeia (2018) Food Chemicals Codex 11th Edition, United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Rockville, MD. <http://publications.usp.org/>

Attachments

- A. Draft variation to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
- B. Draft Explanatory Statement

Attachment A – Draft variation to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code



Food Standards (Application A1171 – Endo-inulinase from *GM Aspergillus oryzae* as a Processing Aid (Enzyme)) Variation

The Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand gives notice of the making of this variation under section 92 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*. The variation commences on the date specified in clause 3 of this variation.

Dated [To be completed by Delegate]

[Insert details of Delegate]

Delegate of the Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Note:

This variation will be published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. FSC XX on XX Month 20XX. This means that this date is the gazettal date for the purposes of clause 3 of the variation.

1 Name

This instrument is the *Food Standards (Application A1171 – Endo-inulinase from GM Aspergillus oryzae as a Processing Aid (Enzyme)) Variation*.

2 Variation to a standard in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*

The Schedule varies a Standard in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*.

3 Commencement

The variation commences on the date of gazettal.

Schedule

[1] Schedule 18 is varied by inserting in the table to subsection S18—9(3), in alphabetical order

Inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7) sourced from <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> containing the inulinase gene from <i>Aspergillus ficuum</i>	Hydrolysing inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides	GMP
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Attachment B – Draft Explanatory Statement

1. Authority

Section 13 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (the FSANZ Act) provides that the functions of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (the Authority) include the development of standards and variations of standards for inclusion in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

Division 1 of Part 3 of the FSANZ Act specifies that the Authority may accept applications for the development or variation of food regulatory measures, including standards. This Division also stipulates the procedure for considering an application for the development or variation of food regulatory measures.

The Authority accepted Application A1171 which seeks permission to use the enzyme endo-inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7) from a genetically modified (GM) strain of *Aspergillus oryzae* (*A. oryzae*) as a processing aid in the hydrolysis of inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS). The Authority considered the application in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 and has prepared a draft variation to the Code.

The Authority noted that the IUBMB uses the ‘accepted’ name ‘inulinase’ for this enzyme (IUBMB 2017). ‘Other’ names for this enzyme include ‘endo-inulinase’, which is the name used throughout the application, this document, and Supporting Document 1. However, the accepted name ‘inulinase’ is the name that has been used in the proposed draft variation to the Code for this enzyme.

2. Purpose

The Authority has prepared a draft amendment to the table to section S18—9(3) in Schedule 18 of the Code to permit the use of the enzyme endo-inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7) from a GM strain of *A. oryzae* as a processing aid in hydrolysing inulin to produce FOS.

3. Documents incorporated by reference

The variations to food regulatory measures do not incorporate any documents by reference.

Existing provisions of the Code incorporate a document by reference that will prescribe identity and purity specifications for the processing aid to be permitted by the draft variation. Section 1.1.1—15 of the Code requires substances used as processing aids to comply with any relevant identity and purity specifications listed in Schedule 3 of the Code. Section S3—2 of Schedule 3 incorporates by reference the specifications listed in the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) Compendium of Food Additive Specifications (FAO/WHO 2017) and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (2018) Food Chemicals Codex (11th edition). These include specifications for enzyme preparations used in food processing.

4. Consultation

In accordance with the procedure in Division 1 of Part 3 of the FSANZ Act, the Authority’s consideration of Application A1171 will include one round of public consultation following an assessment and the preparation of a draft variation and associated assessment summary. A call for submissions (including the draft variation) will occur for a six-week consultation period.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) granted FSANZ a standing exemption from needing to develop a Regulatory Impact Statement for proposed variations of the Code to

permit additional processing aids (OBPR correspondence dated 24 November 2010 - reference 12065). This standing exemption was provided as permitting additional processing aids is likely to have only a minor impact on business and individuals. It is a minor, deregulatory change that allows for the introduction of a food product to the food supply that has been determined to be safe. The use of the approved processing aid is also voluntary.

5. Statement of compatibility with human rights

This instrument is exempt from the requirements for a statement of compatibility with human rights as it is a non-disallowable instrument under section 94 of the FSANZ Act.

6. Variation

Item [1] of the variation inserts in the table to subsection S18—9(3) in Schedule 18 in alphabetical order, a new entry for “Inulinase (EC 3.2.1.7) sourced from *Aspergillus oryzae* containing the inulinase gene from *Aspergillus ficuum*” into column 1, and “Hydrolysing inulin to produce fructo-oligosaccharides” into column 2, and “GMP” into column 3.

The new entry will, in effect, permit the enzyme endo-inulinase (EC number 3.2.1.7), derived from the GM strain of *A. oryzae*, to be used as a processing aid in food, with a technological purpose of hydrolysing inulin to produce FOS, with the condition that the amount used must be consistent with good manufacturing practice (GMP).