

Seamons, Colleen

From: Alan Glover [alan@glover.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 4 April 2011 4:04 PM
To: standards management
Subject: Hemp seed

Categories: Blue Category

FSANZ Application A1039

Hemp Foods for Australia

Discussion points

1. Are you aware of any evidence that consumers believe that low THC hemp foods have psychoactive effects?

NO. Hemp foods do not have any psychoactive effects.

2. Are you aware of any evidence that representations on low THC food (including labelling and advertising) mislead consumers by leading them to believe that low THC hemp foods have psychoactive effects when consumed?

NO. Hemp foods are health foods made from industrial hemp which is by law, very low in THC. There is no benefit to sellers/marketers of hemp foods to mislead consumers.

3. Can you provide any evidence in addition to that presented in this consultation paper whether or not the consumption of low THC foods can return a positive test for a THC drug test?

No. Due to the industrial nature of hemp seeds, a positive test for THC would not occur.

4. Can you provide information on THC testing in Australia and NZ, particularly with regard to regulatory limits of THC that may be set?

No.

5. Can you provide information to indicate whether there will be an impact on the cost of testing for THC in humans that could arise from an approval of hemp foods?

No. See Q.3

6. Do you agree that there are adequate controls currently in place, or that would be achieved by imposing maximum limits for THC, to mitigate any risk of high THC Cannabis varieties entering the food supply?

Yes. Industrial hemp is tested regularly.

7. Do you consider that trade practices legislation in Australia and New Zealand is sufficient to mitigate the potential risk that representations (including labelling and advertising) of hemp foods could suggest psychoactive properties relating to consumption of those foods? If not, what labelling and representations of hemp foods should be considered?

Yes.

8. What is the potential opportunity costs for current producers of hemp crops if hemp foods continue to be prohibited?

Producers lose a lucrative market that would work in conjunction with hemp grown for fibre, ie. half the crop is lost without hemp seed being available.

9. What are the potential benefits to food manufacturers if hemp foods were approved for use?

An instant crop already available but currently wasted by only fibre being allowed.

10. Are there likely to be any additional costs for food manufacturers wishing to supply hemp foods?

No. Hemp seed requires minimal processing before use as food.

11. Would the approval of low THC hemp foods increase the cost of food enforcement beyond what would be expected of the approval of any other substance added to food, or other food regulatory change?

No.

12. What other legislation would affect or be affected by approval of hemp foods?

None. Industrial hemp is already legal and this crop comes under that law/regulation.

13. Would the approval of hemp food have an impact on hemp regulations in Australia and New Zealand? Would industrial hemp destined for use in food require additional controls to those already specified in industrial hemp regulations?

Hemp seed is currently a legal item of commerce in Australia, currently being used in the manufacture of cosmetics and other topical products, as well as a pet food supplement. No additional controls could conceivably be required, especially when dealing with processed items incapable of germination, such as hulled seeds.

14. Would food manufacturers be required to be licensed under existing hemp regulations?

As above (Q13).

15. Would additional costs be incurred by government agencies responsible for granting licenses for the cultivation of hemp as a result of approval of hemp foods?

None that wouldn't be recovered through a user pays system.

16. Can you identify risk management options that have not been considered in the impact analysis?

No.

17. Can you identify any other costs and benefits for any of the risk management options considered in this paper?

No.

18. Do you have a view about the appropriate preferred regulatory options regarding the approval of hemp foods, based on benefits and costs?

Placing hemp seed production into the already existing industrial hemp law is the correct regulatory option.

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