

Project Officer Application A1268
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
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Tēnā koe,

A1268 - Steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion using new enzymes produced by GM *Escherichia coli*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) has the following comments to make:

NZFS supports amending Schedule 18–9(3) of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the following enzymes to be used in the conversion of purified stevia leaf extract to produce rebaudioside I and rebaudioside M:

- Uridine triphosphate (UTP)-glucose-1-phosphate uridylyltransferase (EC 2.7.7.9) produced by GM *Escherichia coli* K-12, expressing the gene for UTP-glucose-1-phosphate uridylyltransferase from *Bifidobacterium bifidum*
- Uridine diphosphate (UDP)-glucosyltransferase produced by GM *Escherichia coli* K-12, expressing the gene for UDP-glucosyltransferase from *Oryza sativa*
- Sucrose synthase (EC 2.4.1.13) produced by GM *Escherichia coli* K-12, expressing the gene for sucrose synthase from *Glycine max*.

NZFS supports the amendments to S3–35(1) and S3–35(2)(c) of the Code to include the specifications of rebaudioside I and rebaudioside M produced from these enzymes.

We note from the FSANZ assessment, based on the available evidence, there are no safety concerns from the proposed uses of these enzymes as food processing aids at GMP levels, and their use are technologically justified.