

21 April 2026
389-26

Call for submissions – Application A1345

Dextranucrase from *Bacillus subtilis* (gene donor: *Streptococcus salivarius*) for use as a processing aid

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has assessed an application made by Danisco Australia Pty Ltd to permit the use of the enzyme dextranucrase from *Bacillus subtilis* (gene donor: *Streptococcus salivarius*) for use as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose 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.

Submissions on this application need to be made through the [Consultation Hub](#). All submissions on applications and proposals will be published on the Consultation Hub. We will not publish material that we accept as confidential. In-confidence submissions may be subject to release under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Submissions will be published following consultation and before the next stage in the statutory assessment process.

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 [Making a submission](#).

For information on how FSANZ manages personal information when you make a submission, see FSANZ's [Privacy Policy](#).

FSANZ also accepts submissions in hard copy to our Australia and/or New Zealand offices. There is no need to send an email or hard copy of your submission if you have submitted it through the FSANZ Consultation Hub.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 11:59pm (Canberra time) 2 June 2026

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.

For information about making a submission, visit the FSANZ website at [current calls for public comment and how to make a submission](#). Questions about making a submission or application and proposal processes can be sent to standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au.

Submissions in hard copy may be sent to the following addresses:

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PO Box 5423
KINGSTON ACT 2604
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Supporting document

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

SD Risk and technical assessment report

Executive summary

Danisco Australia Pty Ltd¹ has applied to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the use of the enzyme dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5) for use as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose. The enzyme is produced by *Bacillus subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *Streptococcus salivarius*.

The proposed use of this dextranucrase is technologically justified in the quantity and form stated by the applicant. The enzyme performs its technological function during food processing, not in the food for sale, and therefore meets the definition of a processing aid for the purposes of the Code. It would have to meet relevant identity and purity specifications in the Code when added to food in accordance with the Code or sold for use in food.

FSANZ's assessment concluded there are no safety concerns with the use of dextranucrase produced by *B. subtilis* under the proposed conditions of use.

Following assessment, for reasons set out in this report, FSANZ has prepared a draft variation, which would amend the table to subsection S18—9(3) of the Code by listing this enzyme and its technological purpose in that table. The table to subsection S18—9(3) lists permitted processing aids and their associated technological purposes. The proposed permission would be subject to a condition that the enzyme's maximum permitted level must be an amount consistent with Good Manufacturing Practice.

If approved, the effect of the draft variation would be to permit the use of this enzyme as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides from sucrose-containing foods in accordance with all relevant Code requirements.

FSANZ is now seeking submissions on the draft variation.

¹ A subsidiary of International Flavors and Fragrances Inc.

1 Introduction

1.1 The applicant

The applicant is Danisco Australia Pty Ltd – a subsidiary of International Flavors and Fragrances Inc.

1.2 The application

The purpose of the application is to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the use of the enzyme dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5) for use as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose.

The enzyme is produced by *Bacillus subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *Streptococcus salivarius*.

The applicant has indicated the enzyme is to be used at minimum levels necessary to achieve the desired effect, in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).²

1.3 The current standard

Australian and New Zealand food laws require food for sale to comply with relevant requirements in the Code. The requirements relevant to this application are summarised below.

1.3.1 Permitted use

Paragraph 1.1.1—10(6)(c) provides that food for sale cannot contain, as an ingredient or component, a substance ‘used as a processing aid’ unless that substance’s use as a processing aid is expressly permitted by the Code. Section 1.1.2—13 provides that a substance ‘used as a processing aid’ in relation to a food is a substance used during the course of processing that meets all of the following conditions:

- it is used to perform a technological purpose during the course of processing
- it does not perform a technological purpose in the food for sale, and
- it is a substance listed in Schedule 18 or identified in section S16—2 as an additive permitted at GMP.

Standard 1.3.3 and Schedule 18 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. An enzyme of microbial origin listed in the table to subsection S18—4(5) is permitted for use as a processing aid to perform any technological purpose if the enzyme is derived from the corresponding source specified in the table. The

² GMP is defined in section 1.1.2—2 of the Code as follows: **GMP or Good Manufacturing Practice**, with respect to the addition of substances used as food additives and substances used as processing aids to food, means the practice of:

(a) limiting the amount of substance that is added to food to the lowest possible level necessary to accomplish its desired effect; and

(b) to the extent reasonably possible, reducing the amount of the substance or its derivatives that:

(i) remains as a *component of the food as a result of its use in the manufacture, processing or packaging; and

(ii) is not intended to accomplish any physical or other technical effect in the food itself;

(c) preparing and handling the substance in the same way as a food ingredient.

table to subsection S18—9(3) lists those substances, including enzymes derived from particular sources, that are permitted to be used as processing aids for specific technological purposes in relation to:

- if a food is specified—that food; or
- if no food is specified—any food.

Additionally, paragraph 1.3.3—11(c) specifies that the substance may only be used as a processing aid if it is not present in the food at greater than the maximum permitted level for that substance indicated in the table to section S18—9.

Dextranucrase from *B. subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *S. salivarius* is not listed in Schedule 18—9(3) and so is not currently a permitted processing aid for use in food processing.

1.3.2 Identity and purity requirements

Paragraph 1.1.1—15(1)(b) of the Code requires substances used as processing aids in food to comply with any relevant identity and purity specifications listed in Schedule 3 of the Code when added to food in accordance with the Code or sold for use in food.

Subsection S3—2(1) of the Code incorporates by reference the specifications listed in the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) Combined Compendium of Food Additive Specifications (FAO JECFA Monographs 26 (2021)), and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (2022) Food chemicals codex (13th edition). These include general specifications for enzyme preparations used in food processing for identity and purity parameters.

1.3.3 Labelling requirements

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

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 apply.

Division 3 of Standard 1.2.3 requires declarations of certain foods (e.g. allergens) on the label of food for sale, unless an exemption applies. If the declaration relates to a processing aid, it must be made in the statement of ingredients and must include the required name³ for the food which is to be declared in conjunction with the words 'processing aid'. If the requirement for a statement of ingredients does not apply, the required name must be declared on the label of the food for sale. If a food for retail sale is not required to bear a label, the required name must be displayed in connection with the display of the food or provided to the purchaser on request. If food sold to a caterer is not required to bear a label, the required name must be provided to the caterer with the food.

1.4 International standards

In developing food regulatory measures, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) must have regard to the promotion of consistency between domestic and international food standards. In terms of food safety, the relevant international standard setting body is the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). In contrast to food additives, there is no Codex 'general standard' for processing aids. However, as noted in section 1.3.2 of this report, there

³ **Required name**, of a particular food, means the name declared by section 1.2.3—5 as the required name for that food for the purposes of Division 3 of Standard 1.2.3 (see subsection 1.1.2—2(3)).

are internationally recognised specifications for enzyme preparations established by JECFA and Food Chemicals Codex.

Additionally, there is a Codex guideline, *Guidelines on Substances used as Processing Aids* (CAC/GL 75-2010), which sets out general principles for the safe use of substances used as processing aids, including that substances used as processing aids shall be used under conditions of GMP.

1.5 Reasons for accepting application

The application was accepted for assessment because:

- it complied with the procedural requirements under subsection 22(2) of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act)
- it related to a matter that warranted the variation of a food regulatory measure.

1.6 Procedure for assessment

The application is being assessed under the General Procedure in accordance with the FSANZ Act.

2 Summary of the assessment

FSANZ has undertaken an assessment to determine whether the enzyme achieves its technological purpose in the quantity and form proposed and to evaluate public health and safety risks that may arise from the use of this enzyme (see the Supporting Document (SD)). Summaries of both assessments are provided below.

2.1 Food technology assessment

The proposed use of dextransucrase as a processing aid to produce glucose oligosaccharides and polysaccharides in the manufacture of sucrose-containing foods is consistent with the typical function of the enzyme. The stated benefits include improved food product texture and sucrose reduction. The evidence presented to support its proposed use provides adequate assurance that the use of the enzyme, in the quantity and form proposed to be used (which must be consistent with GMP), is technologically justified.

Dextransucrase fulfils its primary function during the manufacture of food products and does not perform a technological purpose in the final food. It therefore functions as a processing aid for the purposes of the Code.

There are relevant identity and purity specifications for the enzyme in the Code with which the enzyme would have to comply whenever it is added to food for sale in accordance with the Code or sold for such use.

2.2 Risk assessment

No public health or safety concerns were identified with the use of the production organism, which is neither pathogenic nor toxigenic. Analysis of the modified production strain confirmed the presence and stability of the inserted DNA. No significant sequence homology between the enzyme and any known toxins or allergens was identified.

Glucose derived from wheat is used in the fermentation process to produce dextransucrase and therefore wheat may be present in the final enzyme preparation.

There was no evidence of genotoxicity *in vitro*. The no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) in a 90-day oral gavage study in rats was 1000 mg total organic solids (TOS)/kg bw/day.

The theoretical maximum daily intake (TMDI) of this dextransucrase was calculated to be 3.58 mg TOS/kg bw/day. A comparison of the NOAEL and the TMDI results in a margin of exposure (MOE) of approximately 300.

Based on the reviewed data it is concluded that in the absence of any identifiable hazard an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) 'not specified' is appropriate.

FSANZ concludes there are no safety concerns from the use of this dextransucrase from *B. subtilis* in the quantity and form required to perform its typical function in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose, which must be consistent with GMP.

2.3 Risk management

The risk management options available to FSANZ after assessment were to either:

- reject the application, or
- prepare a draft variation of the Code.

For the reasons listed in this report, FSANZ decided to prepare a draft variation to the Code, which, if approved, would permit the proposed use of dextransucrase produced by *B. subtilis* containing the gene for dextransucrase from *S. salivarius* as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose. If approved, this permission would be subject to the condition that the maximum permitted level or amount of this enzyme present in the food must be consistent with GMP.

Other risk management considerations for this application are related to the regulatory approval, enzyme and source microorganism nomenclature, specifications and labelling. These are discussed below.

2.3.1 Regulatory approval

As stated above, FSANZ has prepared a draft variation to permit the proposed use of the enzyme as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides from sucrose-containing foods.

2.3.2 Enzyme nomenclature, source microorganism nomenclature and specifications

FSANZ notes the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) lists the accepted name 'dextransucrase' for the enzyme EC 2.4.1.5 (see section 2.1 of the SD). This is the name used in the proposed draft variation.

Nomenclature for the host and gene donor organisms – *Bacillus subtilis* and *Streptococcus salivarius*, respectively – is in accordance with accepted international norms for bacterial taxonomy.

There are relevant identity and purity specifications in primary sources of specifications listed in Schedule 3 for enzyme preparations used in food processing. (refer to section 1.3.2 of this report). As stated above, this enzyme would have to comply with those specifications when added to food in accordance with the Code or sold for use in food.

2.3.3 Labelling

The labelling provisions in the Code would apply to foods for sale that are manufactured using this processing aid. See Section 1.3.3 of this report.

Section 2.4 of SD states that glucose derived from wheat is used in the fermentation process to produce dextransucrase and therefore wheat may be present in the final enzyme preparation. Declaration requirements for wheat will apply if it is present in a food for sale that is manufactured using this processing aid.

2.3.4 Risk management conclusion

The risk management conclusion is to permit the enzyme dextransucrase produced by *B. subtilis* containing the gene for dextransucrase from *S. salivarius* to be used as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose in accordance with the Code. If the draft variation is approved, the enzyme and its associated technological purpose would be listed in the table to subsection S18—9(3) of the Code, which includes enzymes permitted for specific technological purposes. The maximum permitted level of the enzyme that may be present in the food would have to be an amount consistent with GMP.

2.4 Risk communication

2.4.1 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 FSANZ Notification Circular 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 the draft variation.

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

2.4.2 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 not substantially the same as existing international standards and the proposed measure may have a significant effect on trade.

There are no relevant international standards (i.e. Codex) and amending the Code to permit the proposed use of this enzyme as a processing aid is unlikely to have a significant effect on international trade. 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.

2.5 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:

2.5.1 Section 29

2.5.1.1 Consideration of costs and benefits

FSANZ has assessed that a Regulation Impact Statement is not required for this application. This is because applications relating to permitting processing aids that are determined to be safe, are considered to be minor in impact or deregulatory in nature as their use will be voluntary if the draft variation concerned is approved.

However, FSANZ had 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 (as per paragraph 29(2)(a) of the FSANZ Act).

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 potential positives and negatives of moving away from the status quo by permitting the proposed use of this dextransucrase from *B. subtilis* (EC 2.4.1.5) as a processing aid.

FSANZ's conclusions regarding the costs and benefits of the proposed measure are set out below. However, information received from the call for submissions may result in FSANZ arriving at a different outcome.

Costs and benefits of permitting the proposed use of the enzyme dextransucrase from B. subtilis (EC 2.4.1.5) as a processing aid.

If the draft variation is approved, industry might benefit from several improvements and efficiencies from the proposed use of this enzyme as a new processing aid. Due to the voluntary nature of the permission, industry would only use this enzyme as proposed where they believe a net benefit exists for them.

If industry experiences cost savings because of using this enzyme as a new processing aid, industry might pass on some of the cost savings to consumers.

Permitting the proposed use of this enzyme as a new processing aid might result in a small, inconsequential cost to government in terms of an addition to the current range of processing aids that are already monitored for compliance.

Conclusion of costs and benefits

FSANZ's assessment is that the direct and indirect benefits that would arise from permitting the proposed use of this enzyme as a processing aid are likely to outweigh the associated costs.

2.5.1.2 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.

2.5.1.3 Any relevant New Zealand standards

The relevant standards in the Code apply in Australia and New Zealand. There are no relevant New Zealand only Standards.

2.5.1.4 Any other relevant matters

Other relevant matters are considered below.

2.5.2 Subsection 18(1)

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

2.5.2.1 Protection of public health and safety

FSANZ undertook a risk and technical assessment and concluded there were no public health and safety concerns associated with the proposed use of this enzyme as a processing aid (see section 2.2 of this report and the SD).

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

The labelling requirements for this enzyme are discussed in sections 1.3.3 and 2.3.3 of this report.

2.5.2.3 The prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct

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

2.5.3 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. The applicant submitted a dossier of information and scientific literature as part of their application. This dossier, together with other technical and scientific information, was considered by FSANZ in assessing the application. The risk assessment is provided in the SD.

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

In terms of food safety, the relevant international standard setting body is Codex. There is no Codex 'general standard' for processing aids, however as noted in section 1.3.2 of this report, there are internationally recognised specifications for enzyme preparations established by JECFA and Food Chemicals Codex, with which this enzyme would have to comply when added to food in accordance with the Code or sold for use in food.

There is also a Codex guideline, Guidelines on Substances used as Processing Aids (CAC/GL 75-2010), which sets out general principles for the safe use of substances used as processing aids, including that substances used as processing aids shall be used under conditions of GMP (see section 1.4 of this report).

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

Australia and New Zealand will remain competitive with international markets where approval for the use of this enzyme is granted. This will also help foster continued innovation and improvements in food manufacturing techniques and processes.

The conclusion of the risk assessment is that there are no public health and safety concerns associated with the proposed use of this enzyme as a processing aid. It is therefore appropriate that Australian and New Zealand food industries are given the opportunity to benefit from the use of this enzyme for the applications proposed by the applicant. Ultimately, the 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**

No issues were identified for this application relevant to this objective.

- **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*⁴ 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 the proposed use of this enzyme as a processing aid would be consistent with these specific order policy principles for 'technological function'. All other relevant requirements of the policy guideline would be similarly met.

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.

Attachments

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

⁴ Ministerial Policy Guideline Addition to Food of Substances other than Vitamins and Minerals - <https://www.foodregulation.gov.au/resources/publications/policy-guideline-addition-substances-other-vitamins-and-minerals>

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



Food Standards (Application A1345 – Dextransucrase from *Bacillus subtilis* (gene donor: *Streptococcus salivarius*) for use as a processing aid) 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 name 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 A1345 – Dextranucrase from Bacillus subtilis (gene donor: Streptococcus salivarius) for use as a processing aid) 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

Schedule 18 — Processing aids

[1] Subsection S18—9(3) (table)

Insert:

Dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5) sourced from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> containing the gene for dextranucrase from <i>Streptococcus salivarius</i>	For use in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose	GMP
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Attachment B – Draft Explanatory Statement

DRAFT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991

Food Standards (Application A1345 – Dextranucrase from *Bacillus subtilis* (gene donor: *Streptococcus salivarius*) for use as a processing aid) Variation

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 A1345 which seeks to amend the Code to permit the use of the enzyme dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5), from *Bacillus subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *Streptococcus salivarius* as a processing aid. The enzyme is proposed for use in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose.

The Authority considered the Application in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 and has prepared a draft variation – the *Food Standards (Application A1345 – Dextranucrase from *Bacillus subtilis* (gene donor: *Streptococcus salivarius*) for use as a processing aid Variation* (the draft variation).

2. Variation will be a legislative instrument

If approved, the draft variation would be a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003* (see section 94 of the FSANZ Act) and be publicly available on the Federal Register of Legislation (www.legislation.gov.au).

If approved, this instrument would not be subject to the disallowance or sunset provisions of the *Legislation Act 2003*. Subsections 44(1) and 54(1) of that Act provide that a legislative instrument is not disallowable or subject to sunset if the enabling legislation for the instrument (in this case, the FSANZ Act): (a) facilitates the establishment or operation of an intergovernmental scheme involving the Commonwealth and one or more States; and (b) authorises the instrument to be made for the purposes of the scheme. Regulation 11 of the *Legislation (Exemptions and other Matters) Regulation 2015* also exempts from sunset legislative instruments a primary purpose of which is to give effect to an international obligation of Australia.

The FSANZ Act gives effect to an intergovernmental agreement (the Food Regulation Agreement) and facilitates the establishment or operation of an intergovernmental scheme (national uniform food regulation). That Act also gives effect to Australia's obligations under an international agreement between Australia and New Zealand. For these purposes, the Act establishes the Authority to develop food standards for consideration and endorsement by the Food Ministers Meeting (FMM). The FMM is established under the Food Regulation Agreement and the international agreement between Australia and New Zealand, and consists of New Zealand, Commonwealth and State/Territory members. If endorsed by the

FMM, the food standards on gazettal and registration are incorporated into and become part of Commonwealth, State and Territory and New Zealand food laws. These standards or instruments are then administered, applied and enforced by these jurisdictions' regulators as part of those food laws.

3. Purpose

The Authority has prepared a draft variation amending the table to subsection S18—9(3) in Schedule 18 of the Code to permit the use of the enzyme dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5) sourced from *Bacillus subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *Streptococcus salivarius* as a processing aid in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose. If the draft variation is approved, this permission would be subject to the condition that the maximum permitted level or amount of the enzyme that may be present in the food must be consistent with good manufacturing practice (GMP).

4. Documents incorporated by reference

The draft variation does not incorporate any documents by reference.

However, existing provisions of the Code incorporate documents by reference that would 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 when added to food in accordance with the Code or sold for use in food. 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 2021) and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (2022) Food Chemicals Codex (13th edition). These include general specifications for the identity and purity parameters of enzyme preparations used in food processing.

5. Consultation

In accordance with the procedure in Division 1 of Part 3 of the FSANZ Act, the Authority's consideration of Application A1345 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 be open for a 6-week consultation period.

A regulation impact statement (RIS) has not been prepared. FSANZ's assessment is that a RIS is not required for this application. This is on the basis that the application is minor and deregulatory in nature. Also, the application seeks to permit the use of a processing aid found to be safe and, if the draft variation concerned is approved, that use will be voluntary. This position is consistent with earlier advice from the Office of Impact Analysis (OIA23-06225)⁵.

6. Statement of compatibility with human rights

If approved, this instrument would be exempt from the requirements for a statement of compatibility with human rights as it would be a non-disallowable instrument under section 44 of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

7. Variation

⁵ Regulatory Impact Analysis Guide for Ministers' Meetings and National Standard Setting Bodies | The Office of Impact Analysis (pmc.gov.au).

References to 'variation' in this section are references to the draft variation.

Clause 1 of the variation provides that the name of the variation is the *Food Standards (Application A1345 – Dextranucrase from Bacillus subtilis (gene donor: Streptococcus salivarius) for use as a processing aid) Variation*.

Clause 2 of the variation provides that the Code is amended by the Schedule to the variation.

Clause 3 of the variation provides that the variation will commence on the date of gazettal of the instrument.

Schedule to the variation

Item [1] of the Schedule to the variation would insert a new entry, in alphabetical order, into the table to subsection S18—9(3) of the Code.

The new entry would consist of the following enzyme in column 1 of the table:

- 'Dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5) sourced from *Bacillus subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *Streptococcus salivarius*'

The permitted technological purpose for this enzyme would be prescribed in column 2 of the table i.e. for use in the production of oligosaccharides and polysaccharides to reduce sucrose content and improve texture in foods containing sucrose.

The permission would be subject to the condition, as prescribed in column 3 of the table, that the maximum permitted level or amount of this enzyme that may be present in the food must be consistent with GMP.

If approved, the effect of the proposed amendment would be to permit the proposed use of the enzyme dextranucrase (EC 2.4.1.5) from *Bacillus subtilis* containing the gene for dextranucrase from *Streptococcus salivarius* as a processing aid in accordance with the Code.