

23 July 2026
406-26

Call for submissions – Application A1349

Food derived from insect-protected corn line COR121

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has assessed an application made by Corteva Agriscience Australia Pty Ltd. to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to permit the sale and use of food derived from genetically modified corn line COR121, which has been genetically modified for protection from insect pests. A draft food regulatory measure has been prepared. 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) 3 September 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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Supporting document

The following document which informed the assessment of this application is available on the [A1349](#) webpage on the FSANZ website¹:

SD1 Safety assessment report

¹ A1349 webpage – <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/food-standards-code/applications/a1349-food-derived-insect-protected-corn-line-cor121>

Executive summary

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) received an application from Corteva Agriscience Australia Pty Ltd to vary Schedule 26 in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the sale and use of food derived from genetically modified (GM) corn line COR121. This corn line has been genetically modified for protection from lepidopteran insect pests.

FSANZ has completed a safety assessment for corn line COR121 using the best available scientific evidence. The assessment found no potential public health and safety concerns. Food derived from corn line COR121 is as safe for human consumption as food derived from conventional non-GM corn cultivars.

If approved, food derived from corn line COR121 may enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products. These may include corn starch, grits, meal, flour, oil and sweetener.

For reasons summarised in this report, FSANZ has prepared a draft variation to amend Schedule 26 of the Code to insert a new paragraph (zm) in item 7 of the table to subsection S26—3(4). The new paragraph contains a reference to ‘insect-protected corn line COR121’.

If approved, the effect of the draft variation would be to permit the sale of food derived from corn line COR121 in accordance with the Code. Existing labelling requirements for GM food would apply.

FSANZ seeks submissions on the draft variation.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Applicant

Corteva Agriscience Australia Pty Ltd is a member of the Corteva Agriscience group, a global agriculture company.

1.2 The Application

Application A1349 was submitted on 9 February 2026. It seeks an amendment to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the sale and use of food derived from a new genetically modified (GM) corn line COR121. This corn line has been modified for protection against lepidopteran insect pests.

Insect protection is conferred by expression of the *ipd083Cb.1* gene encoding the insecticidal IPD083Cb protein. IPD083Cb is an insecticidal protein from the giant maidenhair fern, *Adiantum trapeziforme* var. *braziliense*. COR121 also expresses the phosphomannose isomerase (PMI) protein from *Escherichia coli* strain K-12, which was used as a selectable marker.

FSANZ has previously assessed the IPD083Cb and PMI proteins.

If approved, food derived from corn line COR121 may enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products. These may include corn starch, grits, meal, flour, oil and sweetener products. Cultivation or importation of viable seeds would require separate approval from the Gene Technology Regulator (GTR)² in Australia and in New Zealand, from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)³ and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).⁴

This is the seventh GM application assessed under the shared assessment process with Health Canada.⁵

1.3 The current standard

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

Pre-market approval

Standard 1.1.1 of the Code provides that, unless expressly permitted by the Code, a food for sale cannot be, or have as an ingredient or component, a GM food.⁶ Standard 1.1.2 defines what is a 'genetically modified food' for this purpose.⁷

The above in effect requires pre-market approval of a GM food before it can enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply. GM foods are only approved after a comprehensive pre-market safety assessment.

Standard 1.5.2 sets out the permissions and conditions for sale of a food that is, or has as an

² The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) provides administrative support to the Gene Technology Regulator in the performance of functions under the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.

³ The EPA implements and enforces the *Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996*.

⁴ The Ministry of Primary Industries provides advice on biosecurity requirements in New Zealand.

⁵ See <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/gmfood/health-canada-fsanx-shared-assessment-process> for more information.

⁶ See paragraphs 1.1.1—10(5)(c) and 1.1.1—10(6)(g)

⁷ See definition in subsection 1.1.2—2(3).

ingredient, a GM food. Permitted GM foods are listed in Schedule 26 of the Code.

Labelling

Standard 1.1.1 requires that food for sale must comply with all relevant labelling requirements imposed by the Code for that food.

Section 1.5.2—4 requires a food for sale that contains, or consists of, a *genetically modified food* that is listed in Schedule 26 to be labelled as ‘genetically modified’, where that GM food:

- contains novel DNA or novel protein, or
- is listed in section S26—3 as being subject to a condition that its labelling must comply with section 1.5.2—4.

Section 26—3 of Schedule 26 lists certain GM foods that are subject to the condition that their labelling must comply with section 1.5.2—4 (i.e. regardless of the presence of novel DNA or novel protein in the food). These GM foods are considered to have an altered characteristic, such as an altered composition or nutritional profile, when compared to the existing counterpart food that is not a GM food.

Section 1.5.2—4 also provides that its labelling requirements do not apply if the food for sale:

- contains a GM food that is unintentionally present in the food in an amount of no more than 10 g/kg (or 1%) of each ingredient, or
- is intended for immediate consumption and is prepared and sold from food premises, including restaurants, take away outlets, caterers, or self-catering institutions and vending vehicles.

The labelling requirements imposed by section 1.5.2—4 apply to the following in accordance with Standard 1.2.1:

- a food for retail sale. In the case where a food for retail sale is not required by the Code to bear a label and is not in a package, subsections 1.2.1—9(2) and (3) require labelling information prescribed in section 1.5.2—4 to accompany the food or be displayed in connection with the display of the food; or
- a food sold to a caterer. In the case where a food sold to a caterer is not required by the Code to bear a label, section 1.2.1—13 and paragraph 1.2.1—15(f) require information in section 1.5.2—4 to be provided to the caterer with the food.

The labelling information prescribed in section 1.5.2—4 is the statement ‘genetically modified’ used in conjunction with the name of the GM food (see subsection 1.5.2—4(3)).

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 *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act)
- it related to a matter that warranted the variation of a food regulatory measure
- it was not so similar to a previous application for the variation of a food regulatory measure that it ought to be rejected.

1.5 Procedure for assessment

The application is being assessed under the General Procedure.

2 Summary of the assessment

2.1 Safety assessment

The safety assessment of corn line COR121 is provided in Supporting Document 1 (SD1) and included the following key elements:

- a characterisation of the transferred genetic material, its origin, function and stability in the corn genome
- characterisation of novel nucleic acids and protein in the whole food
- detailed compositional analyses
- evaluation of intended and unintended changes
- assessment of the potential for any newly expressed protein to be either allergenic or toxic in humans.

In conducting the safety assessment, FSANZ considered information from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, a data package provided by the applicant (application and study reports), the scientific literature and previous applications.

The assessment of corn line COR121 was restricted to human food safety and nutritional issues. This assessment therefore does not address any risks to the environment that may occur as the result of growing corn line COR121, or any risks to animals that may consume feed derived from corn line COR121. Permission to cultivate corn line COR121 in or to import viable seeds into Australia or New Zealand would require separate regulatory assessment and approval by the GTR in Australia and by the EPA and MPI in New Zealand.

No public health and safety concerns have been identified.

Based on the data provided in the present application and other available information, food derived from corn line COR121 is as safe for human consumption as food derived from conventional non-GM corn cultivars.

2.2 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 to permit the sale and use of food derived from corn line COR121. If approved, the effect of the draft variation would be to permit the sale and use of food derived from this corn line in accordance with the Code.

2.2.1 Regulatory approval

Corn line COR121 is a GM food for Code purposes as it is derived from 'an organism that contains novel DNA'. FSANZ is proposing to list corn line COR121 in the table to subsection S26—3(4). If approved, the proposed amendment would provide permission for the sale and use of food derived from corn line COR121 as a GM food in accordance with the Code.

2.2.2 Labelling

The applicant did not request any changes to existing labelling requirements in the Code.

If the draft variation is approved, the labelling requirements set out in section 1.3 of this report would therefore apply to food that contains, or consists of, food derived from corn line COR121 if it contains novel DNA or novel protein, unless an exemption applies. FSANZ has determined that food derived from corn line COR121 does not have altered characteristics (see sections 5.3 and 6 of SD1).

2.2.3 Detection methodology

An Expert Advisory Group (EAG) comprising laboratory personnel and representatives of Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions was formed by the Food Regulation Standing Committee's Implementation Sub-Committee⁸ to identify and evaluate appropriate methods of analysis associated with all applications to FSANZ, including applications for genetically modified foods (GM applications).

The EAG indicated that for GM applications, the full DNA sequence of the insert and adjacent genomic DNA are sufficient data to be provided for analytical purposes. Using this information, any DNA analytical laboratory would have the capability to develop a PCR⁹ based detection method. This sequence information was supplied by the applicant for A1349.

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. This call for submissions was notified via the FSANZ Notification Circular, media release 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 through this call for submissions.

The applicant, individuals and organisations that make submissions on this application will be notified at each stage of the assessment.

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 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 and amending the Code to permit food derived from corn line COR121 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 is not considered necessary.

⁸ Now known as the Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation.

⁹ Polymerase Chain Reaction.

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:

2.4.1 Section 29

2.4.1.1 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 the use of GM foods that have been determined to be safe, such as with this application, are considered to be minor and deregulatory in nature given the use of the food will be voluntary if the draft variation concerned is approved.

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 sale and use of corn line COR121.

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 corn line COR121

If the draft variation is approved, food derived from corn line COR121 might enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products. These might include corn starch, grits, meal, flour, oil and sweetener products.

If the sale and use of foods derived from corn line COR121 is permitted under the Code, this would allow broader market access. Due to the voluntary nature of the permission, manufacturers and retailers would only engage with foods derived from corn line COR121 where they believe a net benefit exists for them. Part of any cost savings experienced by the food industry might be passed onto consumers.

For those food products derived from corn line COR121, existing GM labelling requirements would apply to assist consumers wishing to avoid these products.

If the draft variation is approved, there might be small and likely inconsequential costs of monitoring an additional GM food ingredient for regulators to ensure compliance with labelling requirements.

Conclusion of costs and benefits

FSANZ's assessment is that the direct and indirect benefits that would arise from permitting the sale and use of food derived from corn line COR121 corn as proposed are likely to 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

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

2.4.1.4 Any other relevant matters

The applicant has submitted an application for regulatory approval of corn line COR121 to Canada as part of the Health Canada-FSANZ Shared Assessment Process.

Cultivation in Australia or New Zealand would require independent assessment and approval by the GTR in Australia and the EPA in New Zealand.

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's assessment did not identify any public health and safety concerns with food derived from corn line COR121. Based on the best available scientific evidence, including detailed studies provided by the applicant, FSANZ's assessment is that food derived from corn line COR121 is as safe for human consumption as food derived from other conventional non-GM corn cultivars.

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

Existing labelling requirements for GM food will apply to food derived from corn line COR121 in accordance with the Code to enable informed consumer choice (see section 2.2.2).

2.4.2.3 The prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct

No issues were identified that are 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's approach to the safety assessment of all GM foods applies concepts and principles outlined in the Codex Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods derived from Biotechnology (Codex, 2009). Based on these principles, the risk analysis undertaken by FSANZ for corn line COR121 used the best scientific evidence available. The applicant submitted a comprehensive dossier of quality-assured raw experimental data. In addition to the information supplied by the applicant, other available resource material including published scientific literature and general technical information was used by FSANZ in the safety

assessment.

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

This is not a consideration as there are no relevant international standards.

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

The inclusion in the food supply of GM foods that are safe allows for innovation by product developers and a widening of the technological base for producing foods. Corn line COR121 is a new food crop designed to provide growers with an additional control option for lepidopteran insect pests.

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

Issues related to consumer information and safety are considered in sections 2.2 and 2.3 above.

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

No specific policy guidelines have been developed.

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.

4 References

Codex (2009) Principles for the risk analysis of foods derived from modern biotechnology. CAC/GL 44-2003. Codex Alimentarius Commission, Rome.
<http://www.fao.org/3/a1554e/a1554e00.htm>

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 A1349 – Food derived from insect-protected corn line COR121) 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 the variation.

Dated [To be completed by the delegate]

Matthew O'Mullane
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 A1349 – Food derived from insect-protected corn line COR121) 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 26—Genetically modified food

[1] Subsection S26—3(4) (table item 2, column headed “*Food derived from:*”)

Insert:

(zm) insect-protected corn line COR121

Attachment B – Draft Explanatory Statement

DRAFT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991

Food Standards (Application A1349 – Food derived from insect-protected corn line COR121) 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 A1349 which seeks to amend the Code to permit the sale and use of food derived from a new genetically modified food – corn line COR121. Corn line COR121 has been genetically modified for protection against lepidopteran insect pests. The Authority considered the Application in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 and has prepared a draft variation - the *Food Standards (Application A1349 – Food derived from insect-protected corn line COR121) 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 S26—3(4) in Schedule 26 of the Code to permit the sale and use of food derived from corn line COR121, in accordance with the Code.

4. Documents incorporated by reference

This draft variation does not incorporate any documents by reference.

5. Consultation

In accordance with the procedure in Division 1 of Part 3 of the FSANZ Act, the Authority's consideration of Application A1349 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 period. Further details of the consultation process, the issues raised during consultation and by whom, and the Authority's response to these issues are available in an approval report published on the Authority's website at www.foodstandards.gov.au.

A regulation impact statement (RIS) has not been prepared. This is because applications relating to permitting the use of GM foods that have been determined to be safe are considered to be minor and deregulatory in nature, as their use will be voluntary if the draft variation relating to the application is approved. Therefore, the Authority's assessment is that a RIS is not required for this application.

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 is a non-disallowable instrument under section 44 of the Legislation Act 2003.

7. Variation

References to the '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 A1349 – Food derived from insect-protected corn line COR121) 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.

Item [1] of the Schedule to the variation would amend Schedule 26 by inserting, in alphabetical order, new paragraph '(zm)' into the column headed 'Food derived from:' for item 2 of the table to subsection S26—3(4) of the Code. Item 2 of this table is headed 'Corn'.

The new paragraph (zm) refers to 'insect-protected corn line COR121'.

If approved, the variation would permit the sale and use of food derived from corn line COR121, in accordance with the Code.