

# **APPLICATION TO EXTEND THE AUTHORISED USES FOR MUSHROOM (*AGARICUS BISPORUS*) CHITOSAN UNDER THE *AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS CODE* – SCHEDULE 15-5**

## **Executive Summary**

### **SUBMITTED BY:**

Chinova Bioworks Inc.  
50 Crowther Lane, Suite 100  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada  
E3C 0J1

### **DATE:**

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# Application to Extend the Authorised Uses for Mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) Chitosan Under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 15–5

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, Chinova Bioworks Inc. (hereinafter “Chinova”), submitted an application seeking to permit Chinova’s fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*Agaricus bisporus*) as a food additive for use as a preservative in food and beverage products (Application A1315 – *Chitosan and (1,3)-beta-glucans from white button mushrooms (Agaricus bisporus) as a food additive*). Following approval in 2025, Schedule 16 of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (“the Code”) was varied to include “Mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) Chitosan” as an additive permitted at GMP. Chinova now intends to use its fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*) (i.e., mushroom [*A. bisporus*] chitosan) in several food and beverage categories that do not have permissions for additives permitted at GMP. As such, this application has been prepared to gain authorisation to include Chinova’s fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*) under the new food and beverage categories (as specified in the accompanying application) in S15-5 as “Mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) Chitosan.” This food additive is intended for use as a preservative in these foods and beverages at the minimum levels required to achieve the desired technical effect in accordance with current Good Manufacturing Practice, with maximum levels ranging from 400 to 1,000 mg/kg.

The information and data presented in this application are largely the same as those included in the original 2024 submission for Application A1315. The only changes made were to reflect the addition of the new food and beverage categories, acknowledge the establishment of the specification (S3-35) in the Code following the original application, and update the scientific literature search for any new studies related to the safety of chitosan. Upon approval by Food Standards Australia New Zealand of Chinova’s fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*) in 2025, Schedule 3 was varied to add a specification for mushroom (*A. bisporus*) chitosan as S3-55 of the Code. Chinova’s ingredient continues to meet this established specification and no changes are proposed that would affect this established specification. The ingredient continues to be manufactured in the same manner as described in the original application and its technical purpose as a preservative remains the same. The proposed new food uses of Chinova’s fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*) are similar to those that have been recently approved in Canada and that have attained Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) status in the United States, as well as those currently under evaluation by relevant authorities in the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Crustacean-derived chitosan has a long history of safe use in the global food supply. The safety assessment of Chinova’s fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*), as described in the original application, consisted of an evaluation of the metabolic profile of the substance and the available animal toxicology and human studies on chitosan, as well as studies on the safety of *beta*-glucan. Based on the totality of scientific data, the proposed uses of Chinova’s fibre derived from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*) was not expected to be associated with any adverse outcomes and no safety concerns were anticipated. The literature search was updated for this application to extend the authorised uses, and the limited new information identified does not contradict the existing safety conclusion.

The data and information provided in this application support the safe use of Chinova’s fibre extracted from white button mushrooms (*A. bisporus*) as a preservative in the new foods and beverages intended for human consumption in Australia and New Zealand, and support this application to vary of the Code to include “Mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) Chitosan” in the specified new food categories.