

HEALTH PROTECTION DIRECTORATE

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File Number: QCHO/2622 part 1
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Standards Management Officer
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 7186
Canberra BC ACT 2610

Dear Sir / Madam

Submission – Application A1046 – Food derived from herbicide-tolerant soybean line DAS-68416-4

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the 2nd Assessment Report for Application A1046.

Queensland Government overview of genetically modified (GM) food

The Queensland Government is supportive of the move towards legislation that deals with genetically modified (GM) organisms. The Government considers it important that advances in science and technology are not impeded if it is shown that these advances do not harm human health or the environment.

With respect to the commercial production of GM crops, the Queensland Government has not imposed a moratorium and has developed a policy framework for coexistence of GM and non-GM crops, with the use of GM crops considered on a case by case basis.

The use of GM food is also considered on a case by case basis, with particular consideration and relevance to human health.

Role of Queensland Health

This is a whole of Queensland Government response and is made by Queensland Health since it is the lead agency in Queensland which coordinates policy advice relative to the national policy on food regulation. Our approach follows consultation with other relevant Queensland Government agencies.

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Issues relative to this Application

We note our request for advice on the progress of the overseas approvals and the anticipated timelines for the determinations was not forthcoming.

It is considered important to be advised of such information as it provides guidance as to overseas countries positions and considerations on this particular matter.

Furthermore, we noted the Confidential Commercial Information status of the detection methodology. However this creates difficulties for Queensland Health to adequately assess whether the Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services can appropriately analysis this new soybean line, if it is approved.

Yours sincerely

Gary Bielby
Team Leader
Food Safety Policy and Regulation Unit
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