

Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health and Primary Industries

Due date of submission: 20 December 2012 (extended from 6 December 2012)

The Victorian Departments of Health and Primary Industries welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1074 – Minimum L-histidine in infant formula products made by Nestlé.

We support the Application to amend Standard 2.9.1-Infant Formula Products of the Australia and New Zealand Food Standards Code to allow a reduction in the minimum level of L-histidine from 12mg/100kJ to 10mg/100kJ in infant formula products.

The proposed reduction is consistent with the minimum requirements in the relevant Codex Alimentarius and European Commission standards, and the recommendations made by the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition expert committee on the composition of infant formula¹. The reduced level of 10mg/100kJ is comparable to the average content of breast milk and considered adequate to support the growth of formula-fed infants.

¹ Koletzko B et al (2005) Global standard for the composition of infant formula: recommendations of an ESPGHAN coordinated international expert group. *JPGN* 41(5):584-599