



Standards Liaison Officer
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
By email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

22 July 2016

Application A1113 – Extension of Use of Propionates in Processed Meat

On 29 June 2016, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) called for submissions in relation to Application A1113, Extension of Use of Propionates in Processed Meat.

The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) has considered the application and FSANZ's risk and technical assessment, and supports FSANZ proceeding with the suggested amendments. In particular, the AFGC:

- **notes** that propionates are particularly effective against *Listeria monocytogenes* in meat products, which from FSANZ recall data has been the main causal organism for contamination and recall of processed meat products.
- **notes** that propionates are currently permitted to be added to breads and bakery products and flour products, including noodles and pasta.
- **agrees** with FSANZ's positive assessment of the application and recommendation permitting the use of propionates under good manufacturing practice (GMP) in:
 - Processed meat, poultry and game products in whole cuts or pieces, and
 - Processed comminute meat, poultry and game products.
- **agrees** with FSANZ's assessment, that the use of propionates will benefit consumers by reducing the risk of food-borne illness and benefit industry by allowing technological alternatives to current anti-microbial measures.
- **supports** the harmonisation of Australian regulation with standards in Codex Alimentarius.
- **notes** that in its risk assessment, FSANZ concluded that there are no identifiable public health and safety concerns from the additional dietary exposure of propionates used in processed meat products.
- **notes** that the use of propionates is not expected to affect the taste of the processed meat, poultry and game products.

The AFGC considers this assessment to reflect current scientific evidence and good regulatory practice, and accordingly commends FSANZ for its analysis.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Chris Preston.

Chris Preston
Director, Legal and Regulatory