

## **Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources**

**Submission due: 31 August 2018**

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1129 – Monk Fruit Extract as a Food Additive (the Application).

The Application seeks to amend Schedule 8 and Schedule 15 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the use of monk fruit extract as a food additive to perform the function of an intense sweetener.

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- The Code currently permits the use of monk fruit extract for the technological purpose of flavouring, but not for use as an intense sweetener.
- The applicant is seeking permission for the addition of monk fruit extract to certain foods at proposed maximum permitted levels.
- Dietary exposure assessment was not completed as no hazards were identified in the review of toxicological data and an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) 'not specified' was determined as appropriate.
- Monk fruit extract has a long history of use in Japan and is approved for use in food in a number of countries including China, Japan, Canada and the US.
- The United States Pharmacopeial Convention (2016) Food Chemicals Codex (10<sup>th</sup> edition) includes a specification for monk fruit extract, which is a primary reference for specifications in Schedule 3 – Identity and Purity, and as such a specification is not required to be written for Schedule 3.
- Monk fruit extract has not been assigned an INS code number by Codex, and so a dash (-) will be placed in the column for INS number in Schedule 15.
- As an INS code number has not been assigned, it is proposed that class name 'sweetener', with either the additive name 'monk fruit extract' or 'luo han guo extract' be used for ingredient labelling purposes.

On the basis of this understanding, the departments support the progression of the Application A1129.

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