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Attention: Application A1132 Project Manager
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 5423
Kingston ACT 2604

Dear A1132 Project Manager

Proposal A1132 - Broaden Definition of Steviol Glycosides

The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) Confectionery Sector welcomes the opportunity to comment on Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Application A1132 to broaden the definition of steviol glycosides extracted from the *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni (stevia) leaf for use as intense sweetener food additives.

The Ai Group Confectionery Sector represents some 130 companies that include sugar, chocolate and gum confectionery manufacturers; suppliers to the industry, from ingredients to packaging and machinery; and distributors from the confectionery supply chain. As a national organisation, the Ai Group and its affiliates represent the interests of 60,000 businesses employing more than 1 million staff throughout Australia.

We note the proposed expansion of the definition to include the additional minor steviol glycosides to the Code supports improved product formulation and innovation, in particular, flavour and taste attributes.

The Ai Group also notes that FSANZ's risk assessment has concluded that there is no public health and safety concern associated with the proposed expansion of the definition and therefore is technologically justified.

The Ai Group Confectionery Sector therefore supports regulatory Option 1 to amend the Code based on FSANZ's safety and technological justification. In particular, to vary Schedule 3 – Identity and Purity to cover the preparations that include all the steviol glycosides extracted from the stevia leaf and variation to Standard 1.3.1 – Food Additives to include the conversion factor for the additional steviol glycosides not already specified.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on A1132 and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Technical & Regulatory Manager