
16 December 2016

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Boeing House
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Submitted via the FSANZ website

A1132 – Broaden Definition of Steviol Glycosides (Intense Sweetener) [28-16]

The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) welcome the opportunity to make this submission in response to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) call for submissions on *Application A1132 - Broaden Definition of Steviol Glycosides (Intense Sweetener) (the Application)*.

Overall Position

The AFGC **supports Option 1**: prepare a draft variation to the Code to permit a broadening of the definition of steviol glycosides for use as an intense sweetener

The AFGC support is on the basis that:

- no evidence was found to suggest that expansion of the definition of steviol glycosides for use as sweeteners to include all steviol glycosides present in the stevia leaf poses any public health and safety concerns; and
- steviol glycosides are permitted food additives in the Codex Alimentarius General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), and in many countries including the USA, the European Union, Canada and many Asian, and Central and South American countries.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Specific Comments

The AFGC support the broadening permissions for steviol glycosides for several reasons as described below.

Support for Innovation

Broadening of the current definition supports industry's ability to innovate to meet consumer needs around choices for lower energy products without compromising taste. The steviol mix proposed affords a better taste profile giving industry confidence to reformulate.

The importance of the enhanced taste over existing approved steviol glycosides cannot be underestimated.

International Alignment

This broader definition aligns the industry in Australia and New Zealand more competitively to USA counterparts, where up to 38 glycosides are recognised.

AFGC note there is a parallel application currently with JECFA and approval of this application will support industry harmonisation, reducing barriers to trade for impacted markets.

Efficient use of resources

A definition that allows for all aspects of the steviol extract to be utilised provides for more efficient use of the raw material, an important factor when considering environmental impact and supply chain capacity. World demand on stevia is already on the increase and is under pressure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input to FSANZ. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely



Advisor, Policy and Regulation

