

Comments from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

Due date of submission – 29 March 2018

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to respond to this application to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

The Application A1153– Endo -1,4-B xylanase from *Trichoderma reesei* as a Processing Aid (Enzyme) has been submitted by AB Enzymes GmbH. The application seeks permission to use an enzyme (endo -1,4-B xylanase) produced from a genetically modified strain of *Trichoderma reesei* (T reesi).

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report and the documentation provided by AB Enzymes GmbH it is understood that:

- The purpose of the enzyme is to act as a processing aid, and is obtained from a genetically modified strain of T reesei. The enzyme is used to convert arabinoxylans (starch material in plants) into smaller carbohydrate chains in the manufacture and processing of bakery products
- FSANZ concluded that there are no public health and safety issues associated with the enzyme produced from T reesei. T reesei has a long history of safe use as the organism is used for a number of enzyme processing aids already permitted under the Code.
- The enzyme is inactivated during processing, and thus meets the requirements of a processing aid under the Code¹.
- No novel DNA or novel protein remains in the final food treated with the enzyme. Therefore, there are no genetically modified labelling requirements for use of this enzyme when used as a processing aid in the production of food.
- Xylanase is naturally present in many cereals. The addition of Endo -1,4-B xylanase provides improved effectiveness in the manufacture of bakery and other cereal-based products under typical production conditions.
- Normal provisions of section 1.2.3 – 4 of the Code - Declaration of certain substances, would apply to the use of this enzyme especially when used in a powdered form as it is understood that it will contain a wheat based carrier.

The departments acknowledge that no toxicity concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment of this Application. On this basis, the departments support the progression of Application A1153.

¹ 'a substance that is used as a processing aid in relation to a food is a reference to a substance that is used during the course of processing:

- (a) to perform a technological purpose in the course of processing; and
- (b) does not perform a technological purpose in the food for sale '