



11 February 2013

Project Officer Proposal P1019
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6036



Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal P1019 – Carbon monoxide as a Processing Aid for Fish – Call for Submissions

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has the following comments to make.

MPI supports the proposal to make it clear that carbon monoxide is not to be used as a processing aid for fish processing on the basis that it may mask deterioration in quality which in turn may increase the risk of histamine poisoning. However, MPI notes that carbon monoxide may form part of smoke used in smoked fish. Therefore, some further wording may be needed to ensure that the presence of carbon monoxide in smoke ingredients is not affected.

MPI is not aware of any carbon monoxide being used on tuna or other fish processed in New Zealand but there are imported products. Therefore, commencement at six months after gazettal is appropriate.

The proposal highlights that the Code lacks clear or specific provisions relating to the use of gaseous packaging agents used in modified atmosphere packaging in general. MPI believes this should be addressed in a future proposal.

Yours sincerely



Manager Food Science and Risk Assessment