

**Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PROPOSAL P1021 – CODE MAINTENANCE X
Assessment Report
6 July 2012**

The New Zealand Food & Grocery Council (the “NZFGC”) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment Report *P1021 – Code Maintenance X*.

The NZFGC represents the major manufacturers and suppliers of food, beverage and grocery products in New Zealand. A number of these manufacturers and suppliers are major importers and exporters in New Zealand. NZFGC member companies supply over 95 percent of the processed food and beverages to the New Zealand grocery retail industry and over 70 percent of supermarket packaged good sales.

The business of food and grocery is core to New Zealand delivering \$26 billion per year on domestic sales, \$24 billion on export earnings and employing in excess of 148,000 persons.

The NZFGC understands that Code Maintenance is undertaken regularly to correct minor grammatical and typographical errors, update references and correct cross references in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Food Standards Code).

Comment

The NZFGC is supportive of maintenance activity for the Food Standards Code. It is a fact of life that minor errors creep into documents as substantial as the Food Standards Code. Generally NZFGC would not have any issues with their correction. However, in the current Code Maintenance X suite of corrections, one stands out that warrants comment. This relates to the nomenclature developed by international bodies that the Food Standards Code relies on.

The change of concern is that proposed for Standard 1.3.3 relating to tocopherol. The proposal is that:

- the INS number for mixed tocopherol concentrate is updated from 306 to 307b to match changes made by JECFA.

The NZFGC supports this change and supports it being made as part of the Code Maintenance activity. The NZFGC accepts that when nomenclature is changed internationally, the changes need to be reflected in the Food Standards Code. However, this nomenclature may appear on the labels of food products. When they do, labels need to be

changed and this does not occur overnight. For this reason a transition period must be provided. In other circumstances such a transition period might be 2 years.

The NZFGC therefore recommends that a transition period of 2 years apply to the change proposed for tocopherol since it may have consequential impacts on food labels currently in the market and time is necessary for labels to be amended.

We also note that the reference to amending paragraph 3(l) in Standards 1.2.8 contains two occurrences of the term 'water'. The proposal to insert ", ice" after "water" would appear to refer to the second occurrence since the first occurrence is followed by a comma. However, inclusion of 'ice' after the second occurrence does not appear to make sense.