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Application A1184 – Glucoamylase from GM *Aspergillus niger* (donor *Trametes cingulata*)

Comments from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Due date of submission – 24 March 2020

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

Application A1184 – Glucoamylase from GM *Aspergillus niger* (donor *Trametes cingulata*) seeks to permit the use of the enzyme glucoamylase derived from a genetically modified strain of *Aspergillus niger* (*A. niger*).

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report it is understood that:

- Glucoamylase from the genetically modified strain of *A. niger* (the enzyme) is used in starch processing and alcohol production. The enzyme would not perform a function in these products at the point of sale, and therefore it meets the requirements for use as a processing aid.
- The enzyme is derived from a GM strain of *A. niger* containing the glucoamylase gene from the fungus *Trametes cingulata* (*T. cingulata*).
- *A. niger* has a long history of safe use in food enzyme production and the Code currently permits several enzymes derived from the organism.
- The enzyme derived by this process is permitted for use in Denmark and France.
- No genetically modified DNA or novel protein will remain in the 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.

On the basis of the information above and FSANZ's conclusion that there are no public health and safety issues associated with the use of glucoamylase from *A. niger* as a processing aid, the departments support the progression of Application A1184.