

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

Due date of submission – 16 December 2021

The Victorian Departments of Health 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 A1212 - *Beta-fructofuranosidase enzyme from Aspergillus fijiensis* seeks to permit the use of the enzyme beta-fructofuranosidase derived from *A. fijiensis*.

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

- Beta-fructofuranosidase from *A. fijiensis* (the enzyme) is proposed to be used in any food as a processing aid. The enzyme would not perform a function in these products, and therefore meets the requirements of a processing aid.
- The enzyme is derived from a fungal strain *A. fijiensis* ATCC 20611, which has a history of safe use for the production of food enzymes. The production strain is nontoxigenic and non-pathogenic.
- The safety of *A. fijiensis* (previously identified as *Aspergillus niger*) has been assessed by FSANZ and the Code currently permits the enzyme derived from the organism (approved in the Application A1055).
- *A. niger* as the microbial source of the enzyme in the Code has been re-identified as the species *A. fijiensis*, therefore the applicant requests for the additional permission to ensure regulatory certainty.
- The enzyme has received approvals for use as a processing aid in food production in the USA, France, Canada and Japan.

On the basis of the information above and FSANZ's conclusion that there are no public health and safety issues associated with the enzyme beta-fructofuranosidase derived from *A. fijiensis* as a processing aid, the departments support the progression of Application A1212.