Xylanase from *Trichoderma reesei*

An application to amend the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* with a xylanase preparation produced by a genetically modified strain of *Trichoderma reesei*

[redacted]

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present application seeks to amend Schedule 18—Processing aids of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to approve a xylanase enzyme preparation produced by Novozymes A/S.

Proposed change to Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 18—Processing aids

Schedule 18—Processing aids is proposed to be amended to include a genetically modified strain of *Trichoderma reesei* expressing a xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus* as permitted source for xylanase.

The application is applied for assessment by the general procedure.

Description of enzyme preparation

The enzyme is an endo-1,4-β-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8), commonly known as xylanase.

Xylanases catalyse the endo-hydrolysis of 1,4-β-D-xylosidic linkages in xylan.

The enzyme is produced by submerged fermentation of a *Trichoderma reesei* microorganism expressing a xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus*.

The xylanase enzyme preparation is available as a liquid preparation complying with the JECFA recommended purity specifications for food-grade enzymes.

The producing microorganism, *Trichoderma reesei*, is absent from the commercial enzyme product.

Use of the enzyme

The xylanase enzyme preparation is used as a processing aid in processing of grains, potable alcohol production, brewing, and processing of fats and oils. Generally, xylanases hydrolyse xylosidic linkages in xylans, including arabinoxylan present in grains for the production of several products, e.g. gluten, starch, potable alcohol, beer, and fats and oils

Benefits

The benefits of the action of the xylanase in processing of grains are:

- Higher gluten and starch yield due to efficient and targeted degradation of the highly branched arabinoxylans of the grain fibre.

- More efficient removal of trapped water from the fibre, resulting in reduced evaporatin load, leading to energy savings.
- Smoother operations and increased plant capacity.
- Overall reduced net grain cost.

The benefits of the action of the xylanase in potable alcohol production are:

- Higher solid concentration during mashing (energy efficiency).
- Improved heat exchange.
- Improved centrifugal separation.
- Improved mass transfer in fermentation.
- Increased fermentable sugars from beta glucan hydrolysis.

The benefits of the action of the xylanase in brewing are:

- Faster and more predictable lautering or mash filtration.
- Increased flexibility in the choice of raw materials.
- Higher brewing yield due to the improved processing, and thereby less use of raw materials.
- Faster beer filtration.
- Reduced consumption of beer filtration aids (e.g. kieselguhr).

The benefits of the action of the xylanase the processing of fats and oils are:

- Higher oil extraction ratio, providing more oil from same amount of raw material (fresh fruit bunches).
- Reduced viscosity in the pressing and separation phase.
- Reduced oil losses.
- Reduced water consumption.
- Reduced waste and thereby less waste handling.

Safety evaluation

The safety of the production organism and the enzyme product has been thoroughly assessed:

- The production organism has a long history of safe use as production strain for food-grade enzyme preparations and is known not to produce any toxic metabolites.
- The genetic modifications in the production organism are well-characterised and safe and the recombinant DNA is stably integrated into the production organism and unlikely to pose a safety concern.
- The enzyme preparation complies with international specifications ensuring absence of contamination by toxic substances or noxious microorganisms
- Sequence homology assessment to known allergens and toxins shows that oral intake of the xylanase does not pose food allergenic or toxic concern.
- Two mutagenicity studies *in vitro* showed no evidence of genotoxic potential of the enzyme preparation.
- An oral feeding study in rats for 13-weeks showed that all dose levels were generally well tolerated and no evidence of toxicity.

Furthermore, the safety of the xylanase preparation was confirmed by external expert groups, as follows:

- Brazil: The enzyme was evaluated, approved and included in the Brazilian positive list – RDC 26/2009.
- Denmark: The enzyme preparation was safety assessed resulting in the authorisation of the enzyme product by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.
- Mexico: Based on a dossier submitted by Novozymes, the Mexican food authorities, COFEPRIS, have approved the enzyme.

Conclusion

Based on the Novozymes A/S safety evaluation (confirmed by the above-mentioned bodies), we respectfully request the inclusion of the xylanase in Schedule 18—Processing aids.

INTRODUCTION

The present application describes a xylanase enzyme preparation produced by submerged fermentation of a *Trichoderma reesei* microorganism producing a xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus*.

The enzyme is an endo-1,4-β-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8), commonly known as xylanase. The enzyme catalyses the endo-hydrolysis of 1,4-β-D-xylosidic linkages in xylan.

The xylanase enzyme preparation is intended to be used as a processing aid in the grain-processing industry to hydrolyse xylans, including arabinoxylan present in grains for the production of several products, e.g. gluten, starch, potable alcohol, beer, and fats and oils.

The following sections describe in detail the construction of the genetically modified *Trichoderma reesei* used as the production organism, the production process, the product specification, the application of the enzyme preparation and finally the safety evaluation of the product including the toxicology program, which has been carried out confirming the safety of the product for its intended use.

The documentation has been elaborated according to the Application Handbook from Food Standards Australia New Zealand as of 1 July 2019, applied as relevant for an enzyme application, i.e. outlining the following section:

- Section 3.1.1 – General requirements
- Section 3.3.2 – Processing aids, subsections A, C, D, E, F

NB! When reading this document it should be noticed that in some reports, the xylanase enzyme preparation is described by its commercial name, Novozym 28255, or by the internal production batch code PPQ40100.

CHAPTER 3.1, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS

A Executive Summary

An Executive Summary is provided as a separate copy together with this application.

B Applicant details

(a) [redacted]

C Purpose of the application

This application is submitted to provide for amendment of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, Schedule 18—Processing aids to include a genetically modified strain of *Trichoderma reesei* as permitted source for a xylanase.

D Justification for the application

The need for the proposed change

Schedule 18—Processing aids contains a list of permitted enzymes of microbial origin, among others xylanases (EC 3.2.1.8) from different sources, including *Trichoderma reesei*. However, Schedule 18—Processing aids does not contain a xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) from *Trichoderma reesei* containing the gene for xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus*.

Trichoderma reesei is an approved host and production strain for a number of enzymes in Schedule 18—Processing aids, including a wide range of enzymes that act on carbohydrates such as cellulase, endo-xylanase, β-glucanase, hemicellulase multicomponent enzyme and polygalacturonase or pectinase multicomponent enzyme.

The advantages of the proposed change over the status quo

The xylanase preparation is used as a processing aid during the processing of grain-based products. Xylanases hydrolyse xylosidic linkages in xylans, including arabinoxylan present in grains for the production of several products, e.g. gluten, starch, potable alcohol, beer, and fats and oils.

The benefits of the action of the xylanase in processing of grains are:

- Higher gluten and starch yield due to efficient and targeted degradation of the highly branched arabinoxylans of the grain fibre.
- More efficient removal of trapped water from the fibre, resulting in reduced evaporatin load, leading to energy savings.
- Smoother operations and increased plant capacity.
- Overall reduced net grain cost.

The benefits of the action of the xylanase in potable alcohol production are:

- Higher solid concentration during mashing (energy efficiency).

- Improved heat exchange.
- Improved centrifugal separation.
- Improved mass transfer in fermentation.
- Increased fermentable sugars from beta glucan hydrolysis.

The benefits of the action of the xylanase in brewing are:

- Faster and more predictable lautering or mash filtration.
- Increased flexibility in the choice of raw materials.
- Higher brewing yield due to the improved processing, and thereby less use of raw materials.
- Faster beer filtration.
- Reduced consumption of beer filtration aids (e.g. kieselguhr).

The benefits of the action of the xylanase the processing of fats and oils are:

- Higher oil extraction ratio, providing more oil from same amount of raw material (fresh fruit bunches).
- Reduced viscosity in the pressing and separation phase.
- Reduced oil losses.
- Reduced water consumption.
- Reduced waste and thereby less waste handling.

The benefits, which are described above, are not exclusively obtainable by means of enzyme treatment but can be achieved without the use of enzymes, or with a reduced use of enzymes, through e.g. modified maybe more expensive or less environmentally friendly production processes or recipe changes.

As a response to international customer interests, registration activities have been done globally, e.g. the xylanase enzyme preparation has been approved in Brazil, Denmark and Mexico for the described applications.

D.1 Regulatory impact information

D.1.1 Costs and benefits of the application

The application is not likely to place costs or regulatory restrictions on industry or consumers. Inclusion of the xylanase enzyme in Schedule 18—Processing aids will provide the food and beverage industry with the opportunity to improve processing of grains in several processes under environmentally friendly and cost efficient production conditions. For the government, the burden is limited to necessary activities for a variation of Schedule 18—Processing aids.

D.1.2 Impact on international trade

The application is not likely to cause impact on international trade.

E Information to support the application

E.1 Data requirements

No public health and safety issues related to the proposed change are foreseen. As outlined in sections 3.3.2 C, D, E, F, the xylanase is produced by submerged fermentation of a genetically modified *Trichoderma reesei* strain.

The safety of the production organism and the enzyme product has been thoroughly assessed:

- The production organism has a long history of safe use as production strain for food-grade enzyme preparations and is known not to produce any toxic metabolites.
- The genetic modifications in the production organism are well-characterised and safe and the recombinant DNA is stably integrated into the production organism and unlikely to pose a safety concern.
- The enzyme preparation complies with international specifications ensuring absence of contamination by toxic substances or noxious microorganisms
- Sequence homology assessment to known allergens and toxins shows that oral intake of the xylanase does not pose food allergenic or toxic concern.
- Two mutagenicity studies *in vitro* showed no evidence of genotoxic potential of the enzyme preparation.

- An oral feeding study in rats for 13-weeks showed that all dose levels were generally well tolerated and no evidence of toxicity.

F Assessment procedure

Because the application is for a new source organism for an existing enzyme in the Code, it is considered appropriate that the assessment procedure is characterised as “General Procedure, Level 1”.

G Confidential commercial information (CCI)

Detailed information on the raw materials used in production of the enzyme preparation and construction and characteristics of the genetically modified production strain are provided in Appendix 4 and 6, respectively. Summaries of the information are given in section A.4 and 3.3.2 E. The formal request for treatment of selected parts of Appendix 4 and 6 as confidential commercial information (CCI) is included as Appendix 1.1.

H Other confidential information

Apart from the selected parts of Appendix 4 and 6 identified as confidential commercial information (CCI), no other information is requested to be treated as confidential.

I Exclusive capturable commercial benefit (ECCB)

This application is not expected to confer an Exclusive Capturable Commercial Benefit.

J International and other national standards

J.1 International Standards

Use of enzymes as processing aids for food production is not restricted by any Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) Standards.

J.2 Other national standards or regulations

With few exceptions on national, commodity standards, use of enzymes as processing aids for food production is in general not restricted by standards or regulations in other countries.

K Statutory declaration

The Statutory Declaration is provided as a separate document together with this submission.

L Checklist

This application concerns an enzyme product intended to be used as a processing aid. Therefore, the relevant documentation according to the Application Handbook from Food Standards Australia New Zealand as of 1 July 2019, are the following sections:

- Section 3.1.1 – General requirements
- Section 3.3.2 – Processing aids, subsections A, C, D, E, F

Accordingly, the checklist for General requirements as well as the Processing aids part of the checklist for applications for substances added to food was used and is included as Appendix 1.2 and 1.3.

CHAPTER 3.3, GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSTANCES ADDED TO FOOD

3.3.2 PROCESSING AIDS

The xylanase enzyme preparation described in this application is representative of the commercial food enzyme product for which approval is sought.

A Technical information on the processing aid

A.1 Information on the type of processing aid

The xylanase enzyme preparation belongs to the category of processing aids described in Schedule 18—Processing aids.

The xylanase enzyme preparation is to be used in the food industry as a processing aid during the processing of grains. Xylanases hydrolyse xylosidic linkages in xylans, including arbinoxylan present in grains for the production of several products, e.g. gluten, starch, potable alcohol, beer, and fats and oils.

The xylanase enzyme preparation is used in, but not limited to, the following food manufacturing processes:

- Processing of grains
- Potable alcohol production
- Brewing
- Processing of fats and oils

The highest dosage of the xylanase during a food manufacturing process is in processing of grains and potable alcohol production, where dosages up to 600 FXU(S) per kg grains are used.

A.2 Information on the identity of the processing aid

A.2.1 Enzyme

Generic name	xylanase
IUBMC nomenclature	endo-1,4-β-xylanase
IUBMC No.	EC 3.2.1.8
Cas No.	9025-57-4

A.2.2 Enzyme preparation

The enzyme concentrate is formulated into a final enzyme preparation. The enzyme concentrate may be intended for a single enzyme preparation or a blend with other food enzymes and formulated as a liquid product depending on the characteristics of the intended food process in which it will be used.

The typical composition of the enzyme concentrate is:

Enzyme solids (TOS)[1]	approx. 4.0 %
Surcose	approx. 43.0 %
Sodium benzoate	approx. 0.3 %
Potassium sorbate	approx. 0.1 %
Water	approx. 52.6 %

The enzyme concentrate is standardised in xylanase units to an activity of 1,500 FXU(S)/g. The Novozymes A/S method used to determine the FXU(S) activity is enclosed in Appendix 3.1.

Briefly, xylanases hydrolyse wheat arabinoxylan to release a reducing carbohydrate. The reaction is stopped by an alkaline reagent containing PAHBAH and bismuth that complexes with the reducing sugar, producing colour detected at 405 nm. The increase in colour is proportional to the xylanase activity.

[1] TOS = Total Organic Solids, defined as: 100% - water - ash - diluents

A.2.3 Host organism

The production strain was developed from the *Trichoderma reesei* RUT-C30 cell lineage, which was derived from the original isolate QM6A (ATCC 13631, Seidl et al., 2008). The RUT-C30 cell lineage has a long history of safe use at Novozymes A/S for production of food enzymes and has given rise to a number of food enzyme production strains, which are used for production of previously evaluated and regulatory approved food enzymes. The taxonomic classification of the strain is:

Division Ascomycota

Class Sordariomycetes

Order Hypocreales

Family Hypocreaceae

Genus *Trichoderma*

Species *Trichoderma reesei*

For a more detailed description of the host organism and the genetic modifications, please see section 3.3.2 E.

A.2.4 Donor organism

The donor for the xylanase gene is *Talaromyces leycettanus*.

For a more detailed description of the donor and the donor gene, please see section 3.3.2 E.

A.3 Information on the chemical and physical properties of the processing aid

The enzyme is an endo-1,4-β-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8), commonly known as xylanase. Endo-1,4-β-xylanases catalyse the endo-hydrolysis of 1,4-β-D-xylosidic linkages in xylan.

The enzyme preparation is available as liquid product.

The food enzyme object of the present application is not added to final foodstuffs but used as a processing aid during food manufacturing.

No reaction products, which could not be considered normal constituents of the diet, are formed during the production or storage of the enzyme-treated food.

A.4 Manufacturing process

The manufacturing process is composed of a fermentation process, a purification process, a formulation process and finally a quality control of the finished product, as outlined by Aunstrup et al. (1979). This section describes the processes used in manufacturing of the xylanase enzyme product.

The enzyme preparation is manufactured in accordance with current Good Manufacturing Practices (Appendix 4.1). The quality management system used in the manufacturing process complies with ISO 9001:2015 (Appendix 4.2).

The raw materials are of food-grade quality and have been subjected to appropriate analysis to ensure their conformity with the specifications.

A.4.1 Fermentation

The xylanase is produced by submerged fed-batch pure culture fermentation of the genetically modified strain of *Trichoderma reesei*, described in section 3.3.2 E.

A.4.1.1 Raw materials for fermentation

The production strain is grown in a medium consisting of compounds providing an adequate supply of carbon and nitrogen as well as minerals and vitamins necessary for growth. Furthermore, acids and bases for the adjustment of the pH and processing aids (e.g. antifoaming agents) are used during fermentation. The choice of raw materials used in the fermentation process (the feed, the seed fermenter, the main fermenter and dosing) is given in the confidential parts of Appendix 4.3.

A.4.1.2 Hygienic precautions

All equipment is designed and constructed to prevent contamination by foreign microorganisms.

All valves and connections not in use for the fermentation are sealed by steam at more than 120 °C.

After sterilization a positive pressure of more than 0.2 atmosphere is maintained in the fermentation tank.

The air used for aeration is sterilised by passing through a sterile filter. The inside of each fermentation tank is cleaned between fermentations by means of a high-pressure water jet and inspected after the cleaning procedures have been completed.

A.4.1.3 Preparation of the inoculum

The inoculum flask containing the prepared medium is autoclaved and checked. Only approved flasks are used for inoculation.

The stock culture suspension is injected aseptically into the inoculum flask and spread onto the medium in the flask. Once growth has taken place in the inoculum flask (typically after a few days at 30°C), the following operations are performed:

- Strain identity and traceability: ampoule number is registered
- Microbial purity: a sample from the inoculum flask is controlled microscopically for absence of microbial contaminants.

When sufficient amount of biomass is obtained and when the microbiological analyses are approved, the inoculum flask can be used for inoculating the seed fermenter.

A.4.1.4 The seed fermentation

The raw materials for the fermentation medium are mixed with water in a mixing tank. The medium is transferred to the seed fermenter and heat sterilised (e.g. 120 °C/60 min).

The seed fermentation tank is inoculated by transferring aseptically a suspension of cells from the inoculum flask.

The seed fermentation is run aerobically (sterile airflow), under agitation. The overpressure is kept above 0.2 atmosphere at all times, to prevent contamination.

Once a sufficient amount of biomass has developed, microbiological analyses are performed to ensure absence of contamination. The seed fermentation can then be transferred to the main fermentation tank.

A.4.1.5 The main fermentation

The raw materials for the medium are mixed with water in a mixing tank. The medium is transferred to the main fermenter and heat sterilised (e.g. 120 °C/60 min). If necessary, the pH is adjusted after sterilization, with sterile pH adjustment solutions.

The fermentation in the main tank is run as normal submerged fed-batch fermentation.

The main fermentation is run aerobically (sterile airflow), under vigorous agitation. The overpressure is kept above 0.2 atmosphere at all times, to prevent contamination. The fermentation is run at a well-defined temperature.

Fresh medium is added aseptically when the pH increases above its set point, and the dissolved oxygen concentration rises. The feed rate is adjusted so that there is no accumulation of carbohydrates.

Other parameters are measured at regular intervals

- refractive index
- enzyme productivity
- residual glucose
- residual ammonia

Samples are also taken at regular intervals to check absence of microbial contamination.

A.4.2 Recovery

The recovery process is a multi-step operation designed to separate the enzyme from the microbial biomass and partially purify, concentrate, and stabilize the food enzyme.

The steps of this process involve a series of typical unit operations:

- pre-treatment
- primary separation
- filtration
- concentration
- evaporation
- preservation and stabilization

A.4.2.1 Raw materials for recovery

The choice of raw materials used during recovery is given in the confidential parts of Appendix 4.3.

A.4.2.2 Pre-treatment

To facilitate the separation, flocculants are used in a pH-controlled process.

A.4.2.3 Primary separation

The cell mass and other solids are separated from the broth by well-established techniques such as pre-coat vacuum drum filtration or centrifugation.

The primary separation is performed at well-defined pH and temperature range.

A.4.2.4 Filtration

For removal of residual cells of the production strain and as a general precaution against microbial degradation, filtration on dedicated germ filtration media is applied. Pre-filtration is included when needed.

The filtrations are performed at well-defined pH and temperature intervals, and result in an enzyme concentrate solution free of the production strain and insoluble substrate components from the fermentation.

A.4.2.5 Concentration

Ultrafiltration and/or evaporation are applied for concentration and further purification. The ultrafiltration is applied to fractionate high molecular weight components (enzymes) from low molecular weight components and is used to increase the activity/dry matter ratio. Evaporation is used to increase the activity while maintaining the activity/dry matter ratio.

The pH and temperature are controlled during the concentration step, which is performed until the desired activity and activity/dry matter ratio has been obtained.

A.4.2.6 Evaporation

Evaporation is performed to remove water and increase the refractive index. The concentration is run at 0-45 °C and the refractive index is controlled during the concentration step to ensure that the dry matter content is within a given range.

A.4.2.7 Preservation and stabilization

For enzymatic, physical and microbial stabilization polyols as well as potassium sorbate and sodium benzoate are added to the enzyme concentrate.

A.4.2.8 Process control

Apart from the process controls performed during the various fermentation steps and described above, the following microbial controls are also performed.

Samples are withdrawn from both the seed fermenter and the main fermenter:

- before inoculation

- at regular interval during cultivation
- before transfer/harvest

The samples during all steps are examined by:

- microscopy
- plating culture broth on a nutrient agar and incubating for 24-48 hours

Growth characteristics are observed macroscopically and microscopically.

During the microbiological control steps, the number of foreign microorganisms should be insignificant. The fermentation parameters, i.e. enzyme activity, temperature and oxygen as well as pH are also monitored closely. A deviation from the normal course of the fermentation may signal a contamination.

If a significant contamination develops, the fermentation is terminated. The fermentation is regarded as “significantly contaminated” if two independent samples show presence of contaminating organisms after growth on nutrient agar.

Any contaminated fermentation is rejected for enzyme preparations to be used in a food-grade application.

A.5 Specification for identity and purity

The xylanase enzyme product complies with the purity criteria recommended for Enzyme Preparations in Food, Food Chemicals Codex, 11th edition, 2018.

In addition to this, the xylanase enzyme product also conforms to the General Specifications for Enzyme Preparations Used in Food Processing as proposed by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives in Compendium of Food Additive Specifications.

Analytical data for three representative batches of the xylanase enzyme preparation are shown in (Table 1). These data show compliance with the purity criteria of the specification.

Table 1: Analytical data for three representative enzyme product batches

Control parameter	Specification	Batch 1	Batch 2	Batch 3
Lead (mg/kg)	≤ 2	ND (LOD < 0.5)	ND (LOD < 0.5)	ND (LOD < 0.5)
Arsenic (mg/kg)	≤ 1	ND (LOD < 0.3)	ND (LOD < 0.3)	ND (LOD < 0.3)
Cadmium (mg/kg)	≤ 1	ND (LOD < 0.05)	ND (LOD < 0.05)	ND (LOD < 0.05)
Mercury (mg/kg)	≤ 1	ND (LOD < 0.05)	ND (LOD < 0.05)	ND (LOD < 0.05)
Total coliforms (CFU/g)	≤ 30	<4	<4	4
Enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (CFU/25 g)	ND	ND	ND	ND
***Salmonella* spp. (CFU/25 g)**	ND	ND	ND	ND
Antimicrobial activity	ND	ND	ND	ND

ND: not detected; LOD: limit of detection; CFU: colony forming unit

The methods of analysis used to determine compliance with the specifications are enclosed (Appendix 3).

The xylanase enzyme preparation is available as a liquid enzyme concentrate. The concentrate is standardised in xylanase units (FXU(S)/g; Appendix 3.1). The preparation does not contain known food allergens (Appendix 2.1).

A.6 Analytical method for detection

The xylanase enzyme preparation is to be used in the food industry as a processing aid. This information is not required in the case of an enzymatic processing aid.

B Information related to the safety of a chemical processing aid

Not applicable – this application does not concern a chemical processing aid.

C Information related to the safety of an enzyme processing aid

C.1 General information on the use of the enzyme as a food processing aid in other countries

The enzyme is used as processing aid during processing of grains in a range of countries, where there are no restrictions of the use of enzyme processing aids or where the enzyme is covered by a country positive list or specific approval.

The safety of the xylanase preparation has been evaluated and confirmed by external expert groups, as follows:

- Brazil: The enzyme was evaluated, approved and included in the Brazilian positive list – RDC 26/2009.
- Denmark: The enzyme preparation was safety assessed resulting in the authorisation of the enzyme product by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.
- Mexico: Based on a dossier submitted by Novozymes, the Mexican food authorities, COFEPRIS, have approved the enzyme.

C.2 Information on the potential toxicity of the enzyme processing aid

(a) Information on the enzyme's prior history of human consumption and/or its similarity to proteins with a history of safe human consumption

A wide variety of enzymes are used in food processing. Enzymes, including xylanase, have a long history of use in food (Pariza and Johnson, 2001).

In principle, xylanases can be used in the processing of all food raw materials, which naturally contain the substrates. Since the 1980s, xylanases have been used extensively in various industrial food applications such as grain and starch processing, manufacturing of alcohol, brewing and baking products (Beg et al., 2001). Xylanase enzyme preparations from various sources are widely authorised in, e.g. Australia and New Zealand, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Japan.

(b) Information on any significant similarity between the amino acid sequence of the enzyme and that of known protein toxins

A sequence homology assessment of the xylanase enzyme to known toxins was conducted. The amino acid sequence of the xylanase provided in Appendix 6.4 was used as input for the

search. No homologies to known toxins were found. The complete search report is enclosed in Appendix 5.1.

Furthermore, safety studies as described below were performed on a representative batch (PPQ40100) that was produced according to the description given in section 3.3.2 A.4, omitting stabilization and standardization. A summary of the safety studies is enclosed in Appendix 5.2.

The following studies were performed:

- Ames Test. Test for mutagenic activity (Appendix 5.3)
- *In vitro* micronuclei test (Appendix 5.4)
- Subchronic (13 week) oral toxicity study in rats (Appendix 5.5)

The main conclusions of the safety studies can be summarised as follows:

- Xylanase PPQ40100 did not induce gene mutations in bacteria either in the presence or absence of metabolic activation (S-9) when tested under the conditions employed in this study.
- Xylanase PPQ40100 did not induce micronuclei in cultured human peripheral blood lymphocytes following treatment in the presence or absence of an aroclor induced rat liver metabolic activation system (S-9).
- Oral administration of Xylanase PPQ40100 to Sprague-Dawley rats at doses up to 100 % of the tox test batch (1051 mg TOS/kg bw/day for 13 weeks was well-tolerated and did not cause any adverse change. The NOAEL was considered to be 100 % of the tox test batch (equivalent to 1051 mg TOS/kg bw/day).

Based on the present toxicity data it can be concluded that the xylanase enzyme preparation, represented by batch PPQ40100, exhibits no toxicological effects under the experimental conditions described.

C.3 Information on the potential allergenicity of the enzyme processing aid

(a) Information of the source of the enzyme processing aid

The xylanase enzyme is produced by an *Trichoderma reesei* microorganism expressing the xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus*. *Trichoderma reesei* is ubiquitous in the environment and in general considered as a non-pathogenic fungus (see Section 3.3.2 D).

(b) Analysis of similarity between the amino acid sequence of the enzyme and that of known allergens

Enzymes have a long history of safe use in food, with no indication of adverse effects or reactions. Moreover a wide variety of enzyme classes (and structures) are naturally present in food.

The allergenicity potential of enzymes was studied by Bindslev-Jensen et al (2006) and reported in the publication: “Investigation on possible allergenicity of 19 different commercial enzymes used in the food industry”. The investigation comprised enzymes produced by wild-type and genetically modified strains as well as wild-type enzymes and protein engineered variants and comprised 400 patients with a diagnosed allergy to inhalation allergens, food allergens, bee or wasp. It was concluded from this study that ingestion of food enzymes in general is not likely to be a concern with regard to food allergy.

Additionally, food enzymes are used in small amounts during food processing resulting in very small amounts of the enzyme protein in the final food. A high concentration generally equals a higher risk of sensitization, whereas a low level in the final food equals a lower risk (Goodman et al, 2008).

A sequence homology assessment of the xylanase enzyme to known allergens was conducted (Appendix 5.1). The amino acid sequence of the xylanase provided in Appendix 6.4 was used as input for the search. The xylanase was compared to allergens from the FARRP allergen protein database (http://www.allergenonline.org).

No matches were found in the database. Closest homology to an allergen is 19.6 % (Appendix 5), which indicates random homology only.

Thus no significant homology was found between the xylanase and any of the allergens in the database and consequently, oral intake of the food enzyme is not anticipated to pose any food allergenic concern.

C.4 Safety assessment reports prepared by international agencies or other national government agencies, if available

Documentation of approval of the xylanase in Brazil, Denmark and Mexico is enclosed in Appendix 2.

D Additional information related to the safety of an enzyme processing aid derived from a microorganism

D.1 Information on the source microorganism

The xylanase enzyme is produced by an *Trichoderma reesei* microorganism expressing the xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus*. The *Trichoderma reesei* production strain was developed from the well-known wild type *Trichoderma reesei* strain QM6a (ATCC 13631). Strain QM6a is the wild type of practically all *Trichoderma reesei* industrial production strains (Nevalainen et al., 1994). From this wild type strain, the *Trichoderma reesei* parent strain RUT-C30 (ATCC 56765) was developed. The strain is well known and has undergone extensive studies (Peterson and Nevalainen 2012).

The xylanase production strain is a non-pathogenic, non-toxigenic, genetically modified *Trichoderma reesei* strain. The production strain is marker-free, and it does not produce secondary metabolites of toxicological concern to humans as explained in Section E 1.3, Section A.5 and Appendix 6.1.

D.2 Information on the pathogenicity and toxicity of the source microorganism

Trichoderma reesei is an aerobic filamentous fungus recognised to be non-pathogenic for humans, animals and plants (Nevalainen et al., 1994).

Trichoderma reesei was found on deteriorating military fabrics such as tents and clothing. This isolate, designated as QM6a, was initially named *Trichoderma viride*. Approximately 20 years later, QM6a was re-classified as *Trichoderma reesei*. In the 1980s, it was suggested that *Trichoderma reesei* should be placed into synonymy with *Trichoderma longibrachiatum* (Bisset, 1991). Later however, evidence appeared that the two species were not identical (Meyer et al., 1992) and it was decided to go back to the *Trichoderma reesei* name.

Trichoderma reesei has a long history (more than 30 years) of safe use in industrial scale enzyme production and can be considered as a safe production organism for enzymes for food as well as feed processing and numerous other industrial applications. The original isolate, QM6a, and its subsequent derivatives have been the subject of intense research due to their usefulness in the production of cellulases.

Xylanases and cellulases produced by this fungus are used in food, animal feed, pharmaceutical, textile, detergent, bioethanol and pulp and paper industries (Nevalainen et al., 1994; Frisvad et al., 2018). *Trichoderma reesei* strains are non-pathogenic for healthy humans and animals (Nevalainen et al., 1994). The safety of *Trichoderma reesei* has been discussed in several review papers (Nevalainen et al., 1994; Kubicek et al., 2007; Peterson and Nevalainen, 2012; Frisvad et al., 2018). *Trichoderma reesei* has been described not to

produce mycotoxins or antibiotics under conditions used for enzyme production (Nevalainen et al., 1994; Kubicek et al., 2007; Peterson and Nevalainen, 2012; Frisvad et al., 2018).

The JECFA has evaluated and authorised a cellulase enzyme preparation containing xylanase and β-glucosidase site activities made from *Trichoderma reesei* and a glucoamylase from a genetically modified *Trichoderma reesei*.

Trichoderma reesei is not listed in Annex III of Directive 2000/54/EC[2], which lists micro-organisms for which safety concerns for workers exist, as it is globally regarded as a safe micro-organism.

In Europe, *Trichoderma reesei* is classified as a low-risk-class micro-organism, as exemplified by being listed as Risk Group 1 in the micro-organism classification lists of the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin (BAuA) (BAuA, 2016) and not appearing on the list of pathogens from the “Belgian classifications for micro-organisms based on their biological risks” (Belgian Biosafety Server, 2010).

As a result, *Trichoderma reesei* can be used under the lowest containment level at large scale, GILSP (Good Industrial Large Scale Practice), as defined by OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 1993).

D.3 Information on the genetic stability of the source organism

The inserted recombinant DNA is genetically stable during fermentation, as the inserted DNA is integrated into the chromosome.

Stability of the introduced DNA sequences was analysed using phenotypic characteristics of the production strain, i.e. enzyme activity and protein synthesis.

For a more detailed description of the strain construction and characteristics, please see section 3.3.2 E.

[2] Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work. OJ L262/21. 17.10.2000.

E Additional information related to the safety of an enzyme processing aid derived from a genetically-modified microorganism

E.1 Information on the methods used in the genetic modification of the source organism

This section contains summarised information on the modifications of the host strain, on the content and nature of the introduced DNA and on the construction of the final production strain, as well as the stability of the inserted gene. The detailed information is provided in the confidential Appendix 6.

E.1.1 Host organism

The production strain was developed from the *Trichoderma reesei* RUT-C30 cell lineage, which was derived from the original isolate QM6A (ATCC 13631, Seidl et al., 2008). The RUT-C30 cell lineage has a long history of safe use at Novozymes A/S for production of food enzymes and has given rise to a number of food enzyme production strains, which are used for production of previously evaluated and regulatory approved food enzymes. The taxonomic classification of the strain is:

Division Ascomycota

Class Sordariomycetes

Order Hypocreales

Family Hypocreaceae

Genus *Trichoderma*

Species *Trichoderma reesei*

The recipient strain used in the construction of the *Trichoderma reesei* production strain, was derived from the parental strain through a combination of classical mutagenesis/selection and GM-steps. These steps were carried out in order to simplify purification, enhance product stability and increase the safety of the strain.

E.1.2 Introduced DNA

The vector used to transform the *Trichoderma reesei* recipient strain is based on a hybrid *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*/*Escherichia coli* vector. The vector is explained in detail in Appendix 6. No elements of the vector are left in the production strain. The vector contains

the xylanase expression cassette consisting of a *Trichoderma* promoter, the coding sequence for xylanase from *Talaromyces leycettanus* and a *Trichoderma* terminator.

E.1.3 Construction of the Recombinant Microorganism

The *Trichoderma reesei* production strain was constructed from the recipient strain through the following steps:

1. The xylanase expression cassette was integrated at specific integration sites present in the recipient strain.

2. A transformant was screened for rapid growth and high xylanase activity leading to the final production strain.

E.1.4 Antibiotic Resistance Gene

No functional antibiotic resistance genes were left in the strain as a result of the genetic modifications as shown by genome sequence analysis.

E.1.5 Stability of the Introduced Genetic Sequences

The transforming DNA is stably integrated into the *Trichoderma reesei* chromosome and, as such, is poorly mobilised for genetic transfer to other organisms and is mitotically stable. Stability of the introduced DNA sequence was analysed using phenotypic characteristics of the production strain, i.e. enzyme activity and protein synthesis. Further details can be found in Appendix 6.4.

F Information related to the dietary exposure to the processing aid

F.1 A list of foods or food groups likely to contain the processing aid or its metabolites

The xylanase enzyme preparation is used as a processing aid in processing of grains, potable alcohol production, brewing, and processing of fats and oils. Generally, xylanases hydrolyse xylosidic linkages in xylans, including arabinoxylan present in grains for the production of several products, e.g. gluten, starch, potable alcohol, beer, and fats and oils

F.2 The levels of residues of the processing aid or its metabolites for each food or food group

The xylanase enzyme is used in several methods for processing raw materials containing starch.

- Processing of grains
- Potable alcohol production
- Brewing
- Processing of fats and oils

Use level

The enzyme preparation is used at minimum levels necessary to achieve the desired effect and according to requirements for normal production following GMP.

The conditions of use of the xylanase preparation during food processing do not only depend on the type of application, but also on the food production process of each individual food manufacturer. In order to ensure optimal effectiveness of the enzyme at an acceptable economic cost the dosage, reaction time, process conditions and processing steps are adjusted.

The highest dosage given for solid food is 600 FXU(S) per kg grains. This corresponds to 0.4 g of xylanase enzyme preparation per kg grains equivalent to 16 mg TOS per kg grains.

The highest dosage given for liquids is 600 FXU(S) per kg grains. This corresponds to 0.4 g of xylanase enzyme preparation per kg grains equivalent to 16 mg TOS per kg grains.

Enzyme residues in the Final Food

The xylanase enzyme preparation is used as a processing aid during processing of grains, potable alcohol production, brewing, and processing of fats and oils. The enzyme is denatured by heat during processing and subsequently removed by repeated washing (processing of grain), distillation (potable alcohol production), and as part of the water-soluble waste stream (processing of oils and fats). As a result the presence of residual amounts of enzyme TOS is negligible.

F.2.1 Estimates of human consumption

Method used for the dietary exposure assessment

An exposure assessment according to the Budget Method (Hansen, 1966; Douglass et al., 1997; ILSI, 1997) has been performed, as the processed starch is used as an ingredient in a variety of food products and beverages.

Budget Method

Overall, the human exposure to the xylanase will be negligible because the enzyme preparation is used as a processing aid and in low dosages.

The Budget Method assumptions represent a “maximum worst case” situation of human consumption, in which the food enzyme object of the present application would be used at its maximum recommended dosages in all processed food and all processed beverages and not only in those food and drink processes described in Section F.2.

It is also supposed that the totality of the food enzyme will end up in the final food. This assumption is exaggerated since the enzyme protein and the other substances resulting from the fermentation are diluted or removed in certain processing steps.

As an example distilled beverage spirits will neither contain any TOS (Total Organic Solids) originating from the food enzyme preparation nor from the fermentation mash due to the distillation step(s).

Therefore the safety margin calculation derived from this method is highly conservative.

Assumptions in the Budget Method

Solids	The maximum energy intake over the course of a lifetime is 50 kcal/kg body weight/day. 50 kcal corresponds to 25 g foods. Therefore, adults ingest 25 g foods per kg body weight per day. Assuming that 50% of the food is processed food, the daily consumption will be 12.5 g processed foods per kg body weight. It is further assumed that, in average, all processed food contains 25% grains (or grain-derived) dry matter = 3.12 g grain-derived dry matter per kg body weight per day.
Liquids	The maximum intake of liquids (other than milk) is 100 ml/kg body weight/day. Assuming that 25% of the non-milk beverages is processed, the daily consumption will be 25 ml processed beverages per kg body weight. It is further assumed that all processed beverages contain 12% grain hydrolysates = 3.0 g grain-derived dry matter per kg body weight per day.

	It is assumed that the densities of the beverages are ~ 1.

TMDI (Total amount of dietary intake) calculation

Solid food

The highest dosage given for solid food is 600 FXU(S) per kg grains, corresponding to 16 mg TOS per kg grains (cf. Section 3.3.2 A.2.2).

Based on this, 3.12 g grain-derived dry matter in solid food will maximally contain:

16 mg TOS per kg / 1000 g per kg x 3.12 g = 0.05 mg TOS

Liquids

The highest dosage given for liquids is 600 FXU(S) per kg grains, corresponding to 16 mg TOS per kg grains (cf. Section 3.3.2 A.2.2).

Based on this, 3.0 g grain-derived dry matter in liquids will maximally contain:

16 mg TOS per kg / 1000 g per kg x 3.0 g = 0.05 mg TOS

Total TMDI of grain-derived solid foods and liquids

0.05 mg TOS + 0.05 mg TOS = 0.1 mg TOS

F.2.2. Safety Margin Calculation

The safety margin is calculated as dose level with no adverse effect (NOAEL) divided by the estimated human consumption (TMDI). The NOAEL dose level in the 13 weeks oral toxicity study in rats was concluded to be 1051 mg TOS/kg bw/day (cf. Section 3.3.2 C 2).

The estimated human consumption is 0.1 mg TOS/kg/day

The safety margin can thus be calculated to be 1051/0.1 = 10,510.

F.3 For foods or food groups not currently listed in the most recent Australian or New Zealand National Nutrition Surveys (NNSs), information on the likely level of consumption

Not relevant.

F.4 The percentage of the food group in which the processing aid is likely to be found or the percentage of the market likely to use the processing aid

It is assumed that all raw materials containing grains are processed using the xylanase object of this submission as a processing aid at the highest recommended dosage.

F.5 Information relating to the levels of residues in foods in other countries

As described in F.2.1 above, a “worst case” calculation is made assuming that all organic matter originating from the enzyme is retained in the processed food product. The dietary exposure is estimated using the Budget Method, as the processed grains are used as an ingredient in a variety of food products.

F.6 For foods where consumption has changed in recent years, information on likely current food consumption

No significant changes in recent years are observed.

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