



AUG 24, 2016

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Food Standards Australia New Zealand
55 Blackall Street
Barton, Australian Capital Territory 2600

Subject: Canada's comments on Food Standards Australia New Zealand's proposal P1042 (Low THC Hemp Seeds as Food)

Canada appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)'s proposal concerning the sale of food derived from the seeds of low delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol varieties of *Cannabis sativa* (low THC hemp).

As a producer and exporter of hemp products, Canada would be interested in the outcomes of this review and consultation process.

Canada notes that Australia's and New Zealand's review process is similar to the review process Canada undertook of its regulatory regime. This review involved careful consideration and debate regarding the use of hemp including, for example, concerns raised by law enforcement agencies related to public safety, as well as ensuring food safety for consumers. Hemp production in Canada is successfully regulated with, for example, a requirement that producers and manufacturers working with hemp must first obtain licences from Health Canada.

Canada also notes with interest FSANZ's considerations to address cannabidiol limits in hemp food products, roadside drug testing, and its proposal for no additional labelling or advertising requirements. Canada would be interested to learn more about FSANZ's proposed approach in addressing valid public safety concerns.

Canadian researchers and industry are taking a leading role in the research and promotion of hemp towards different uses, including food, clothing, cosmetics and industrial. In recent years, hemp food products have expanded in grocery stores and natural food stores across North America as consumers become more familiar with the nutritional and health benefits of hemp.

FSANZ's proposal to permit food products containing low THC hemp would create new market opportunities benefitting producers and manufacturers in Australia, New Zealand and other countries.

The Government of Canada has informed domestic stakeholders about FSANZ's proposal and the opportunity to provide comments.

As the use of hemp increases worldwide, whether for food, consumer products or industrial use, governments will need to ensure balanced regulations allowing for industry growth and innovation while ensuring public and consumer safety.

Sincerely,