

2 November 2018

FROM: International Stevia Council

Avenue de Tervueren 188a, Postbox 4
B-1150 Brussels, Belgium

TO: Food Standards Australia New Zealand

RE: Submission – Application A1149; Addition of steviol glycosides to fruit drinks

The International Stevia Council (ISC) is a global trade association representing the stevia industry, including stevia leaf growers and producers, stevia extracts and steviol glycosides producers, users of steviol glycosides in final consumer products. ISC activities aim at improving the diets and health of people globally by addressing sugars and calories in food.

We would like to support: a) the application made by the Australian Beverages Council Ltd (ABCL) to permit the addition of steviol glycosides to fruit drinks at a maximum permitted level of 200 mg/kg steviol equivalents and b) the draft food regulatory measure prepared by Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

ISC fully support the draft food regulatory measure as prepared and proposed by FSANZ.

We are aligned with the FSANZ assessment that there are no public health and safety concerns from the extension of use of steviol glycosides in fruit drinks at the proposed level.

Given the available safety data on stevia and world-wide application of stevia in a large number of commercial food and beverage products, ISC supports FSANZ's proposal for the addition of steviol glycosides to fruit drinks at the levels proposed by FSANZ.

This approval is important not only for the food industry but also for consumers wishing to consume fruit drinks with reduced calories and sugar. Consumers will have more options available as the use of steviol glycosides at the permitted level typically allows a 30–50% reduction in sugar to standard fruit drinks.

ISC wishes to thank FSANZ for the opportunity to provide its support on this amendment.

Kind regards,

Maria Teresa Scardigli



Maria Teresa Scardigli - Executive Director

International Stevia Council

Global Office - Avenue de Tervuren 188A - 1150 - Brussels - Belgium

Tel: + 32 (0)2 761 16 51;

Fax: + 32 (0)2 761 16 99

e-mail: GlobalOffice@internationalsteviacouncil.org

website: <http://www.internationalsteviacouncil.org/>