

**Application A1185 – Alpha-amylase from GM *Aspergillus niger* as a processing aid (enzyme)**

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**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 A1185 – Alpha-amylase from GM *Aspergillus niger* as a processing aid (enzyme) seeks to permit the use of the enzyme, alpha-amylase from a genetically modified (GM) strain of *Aspergillus niger* (*A. niger*).

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

- Alpha-amylase from the GM *A. niger* (the enzyme) is used in the manufacture of potable alcohol and syrups. The enzyme would not perform a function in these products at the point of sale, and therefore meets the requirements for use as a processing aid.
- The enzyme is derived from a GM strain of *A. niger* containing the alpha-amylase gene from the fungus *Rhizomucor pusillus*.
- *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 produced by the proposed process is permitted for use in Denmark, France and Mexico.

It is also understood that, as no genetically modified DNA or novel protein will remain in the food treated with the enzyme, 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 alpha-amylase from *A. niger* as a processing aid, the departments support the progression of Application A1185.