



6 November 2023

(23-7459)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> AUSTRALIA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Foods sold in Australia (both imported and domestically produced)
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Approval report Application A1268 – Steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion using new enzymes produced by GM <i>Escherichia coli</i> ; Supporting Document 1 Risk and technical assessment - Application A1268 Steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion using new enzymes produced by GM <i>Escherichia coli</i> . <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 32+12 <a href="https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1268---Steviol-glycosides-produced-by-bioconversion-using-new-enzymes-produced-by-GM-Escherichia-coli.aspx">https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1268---Steviol-glycosides-produced-by-bioconversion-using-new-enzymes-produced-by-GM-Escherichia-coli.aspx</a>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> FSANZ has approved amendments to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the bioconversion method of producing specific steviol glycosides, rebaudioside M and rebaudioside I. The use of three genetically modified enzymes as processing aids are permitted for this specific purpose. The bioconversion method of production is consistent with Codex standards. The enzymes used and their sources are very similar but not identical to those listed in the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) specifications for steviol glycosides, being the (Framework for) Steviol Glycosides.
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. All applications to change the Code must be assessed in the context of the following objectives: (a) the protection of public health and safety; (b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; and (c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.
<b>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</b> The Codex General Standard for Food additives (GSFA) CXS 192-1995, has provisions for steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) specification for Steviol Glycosides - specifically called the (Framework for) Steviol Glycosides. JECFA is the risk assessment authority for Codex food additive provisions. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b>

<p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>  Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (English).</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> 18 January 2024  <b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> 18 January 2024</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 18 January 2024  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): As the measure is trade facilitative and is substantially the same as an international standard, guideline or recommendation, the 60-day period for receiving comments is not required.</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. <b>Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>  Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  Tel: +(61 2) 6272 3933  Email: <a href="mailto:sps.contact@aff.gov.au">sps.contact@aff.gov.au</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au">http://www.agriculture.gov.au</a></p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. <b>Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>  Documents are available from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website:  <a href="http://www.foodstandards.gov.au">A1268 - Steviol glycosides produced by bioconversion using new enzymes produced by GM Escherichia coli (foodstandards.gov.au)</a></p> <p>Copies are also available from:  Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  Tel: +(61 2) 6272 3933  Email: <a href="mailto:sps.contact@aff.gov.au">sps.contact@aff.gov.au</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au">http://www.agriculture.gov.au</a></p>