

To:

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Via email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

Date: 21 April 2022

To whom it may concern

I write in response to **Proposal M1019 - Review of Schedule 22 – Foods and classes of foods (2021)**.

This submission is presented on behalf of the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) and Grain Trade Australia (GTA) and comments on grain and grain related products only.

1. Grain Trade Australia

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is a national association and is the focal point for the commercial grains industry within Australia. The role of GTA is to provide a framework across Industry to facilitate and promote the trade of grain. GTA facilitates trade and works to provide an efficient, equitable and open trading environment by providing leadership, advocacy and commercial support services to the Australian grain value chain. GTA Members are responsible for over 95% of all grain storage and freight movements made each year in Australia. Over 95% of the grain contracts executed in Australia each year refer to GTA Grain Trading Standards and/or Trade Rules.

GTA has established the Australian Grains Industry Code of Practice. All GTA Members are required to adhere to the Code of Practice. GTA Members are drawn from all sectors of the grain value chain from production to domestic end users and exporters. GTA has over 260 organisations as Members. Their businesses range from regional family businesses to large national and international trading/storage and handling companies who are involved in grain trading activities, grain storage, processing grain for human consumption and stock feed milling. A list of GTA Members is [here](#).

2. The NWPGP:

- Is the industry body responsible for providing management and leadership to industry in the areas of post-harvest storage, chemical use, market requirements and chemical regulations.
- Is facilitated by Grain Trade Australia and funded in part by Grains Australia.
- Has members across the entire grain supply chain.
- Hosts an annual forum providing participants with the latest research and developments, in the area of post-harvest storage and hygiene, chemical usage and outturn tolerances, international and domestic market requirements, and regulations.
- Co-ordinates and provides government with industry views on chemicals in use on grain and associated products.
- For further details, refer to <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>

3. Industry Views on the Proposal

- a) Regulatory Options

On behalf of the NWPGP I advise that based on the information provided by FSANZ in the call for submissions, industry supports the proposed changes to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (Code), being Option 3.

We agree strongly that the proposed variation:

- Will address inconsistencies between the foods and classes of foods and crop groups, including subgroups.
- As adopted by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and Codex Alimentarius and the foods and classes of foods described and listed in Schedule 22.
- A revised Schedule 22 will provide clarity for food commodities listed in Schedules 20 and 21 and / or foods referenced by other standards and Schedules of the Code.

The grain industry relies on effective Australian and international regulations in relation to chemicals and residues on grain related food products. This includes any and all Australian regulations developed by APVMA and FSANZ for the purposes of importing and exporting grain.

Given the Australian grain industry is heavily reliant on exports, our desire is for all markets to adopt a consistent approach to the development and ongoing review of chemicals and their regulations, such as maximum residue limits (MRLs). Internationally, many markets comply with and / or adopt Codex Alimentarius MRLs and associated procedures such as classes of crop groups.

It is noted that Australia via the APVMA follows Codex in that regard, and we are encouraged that the FSANZ proposal Option 3 is to make the relevant changes for consistency while providing greater flexibility for FSANZ to adopt changes in a more frequent manner than otherwise may occur under Option 2.

b) Crop Commodities

More specifically, we note and support “The proposed amendments to Schedule 22 which primarily focuses on major changes to Crop commodities by aligning Schedule 22 with the Codex and APVMA Crop group lists”.

This support includes:

- The amended class/group names in Table 3.
- Changes to the description text for food groups.
- Relocation of text related to the portion of the commodity MRLs and ERLs apply.
- Proposed amendments to Crop group names and commodities, being:
 - Table 16: Proposed changes to Schedule 22 – Pulses group.
 - Table 20: Proposed changes to Schedule 22 – Cereal Grains group.
 - Table 22: Proposed changes to Schedule 22 – Nuts and Seeds group.

This support is for the reasons outlined above and in the discussion paper, including:

- “This approach provides a succinct classification system that allows both raw agricultural commodities as they move in trade as well as processed foods and ingredients that may contain residues of agvet chemicals to be clearly described. This approach will allow the Schedule to be used for the purpose it has been designed for.”
- “The variation proposes that for some subgroups within Cereal grains, qualifiers have been provided to more closely align with Codex and provide clarity for various commodities within this group.”
- “For oilseeds, this change will align with Codex and is supported by the APVMA. Previously husks were excluded from the portion. The new portion of the commodity, Oilseeds, is unless otherwise specified, seed or kernels, with shell or husk”.

Overall, the changes make the classification system more user friendly and able to be more readily understood, more consistent with Codex and more applicable to the grain commodities being traded internationally.

The grain industry was closely involved in the recent reviews of crop groups and classifications at Codex, and actively participated in developing the position of the Australian delegation to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The proposal from FSANZ does not appear to be at odds with that stance and is therefore supported.

c) Proposed omissions from Crop commodities

We note in the Discussion paper “Vetch (Group: Pulses). Vetch has approximately 140 species and is primarily used as a fodder crop and currently there is no MRL for this commodity in Schedule 20. It is currently listed on the APVMA crop table. The main intent of Schedule 22 is to capture food for human consumption only.”

While this proposal would create a difference between the crop group classifications of APVMA and FSANZ, we note the intent of FSANZ to set MRLs for human consumption only. We therefore support removal of vetch from Schedule 22 but seek a review of that decision if in future vetch varieties are grown in Australia for human consumption.

Should you have any questions on this submission please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,



Gerard McMullen
Chair
National Working Party on Grain Protection

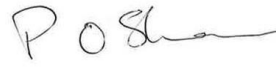
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