

## **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD REGULATIONS REGARDING PERMITTED ENZYMES FOR FOOD USE**

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) initiated a public consultation exercise for the period 9 March 2015 to 8 June 2015 on proposed amendments to the Food Regulations regarding permitted enzymes for food use. Feedback was sought from the food industry (local food enzyme manufacturers and importers) on the following issues:

- I. Whether the proposed format of presentation provides clarity on the identity of permitted enzymes for food use.
- II. Whether additional information on the characterisation of enzymes should be included in the proposed format, and the rationale for inclusion.
- III. Whether any additional enzymes should be included in the Eighth Schedule, and the justification for inclusion.

### Issue I

13 companies/associations responded to the public consultation exercise. Six of them voiced support of the proposed presentation format as it provides greater clarity on the identity of enzymes permitted for food use. One company felt that the column on the “Donor gene” was not necessary. The remaining six companies/associations did not comment on the presentation format.

### Issue II

One company and one association provided comments in relation to additional characterisation information (e.g. synonyms) for the existing enzymes. AVA has taken note of the comments and will be including the additional information in the form of footnotes under the revised list of enzymes in the Eighth Schedule. The remaining 11 companies/associations either did not comment or felt that the information on characterisation of enzymes was sufficient.

### Issue III

In total, the food industry has proposed 98 additional entries (32 new enzyme entries and 66 entries on new production sources for enzymes already in the list) for inclusion under the Eighth Schedule. Of these 98 entries, only 49 entries (12 new enzyme entries and 37 entries on new production sources for enzymes already in the list) will be incorporated into the Eighth Schedule. This decision was made after careful consideration and evaluation of the safety information for each enzyme and regulatory approvals in the major developed countries. The remaining 49 entries will not be incorporated into the Eighth Schedule due to a lack of characterisation information, safety information, and/or regulatory approvals in the major developed countries. The revised list of enzymes, which will be incorporated into a future amendment of the Food Regulations can be found in the **ANNEX**.

AVA appreciates the time taken by individuals and organisations to submit feedback and comments which have contributed to the decision making process, and would like to encourage all food industry members to actively participate in future calls for comments.

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