



6 December 2011

Project Officer Application A1056  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 10559  
The Terrace  
WELLINGTON 6036

Dear Sir/Madam

## Application A1056 – Dimethyl Ether as a Processing Aid for Dairy Ingredients and Products – Assessment Report

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has the following comments to make.

MAF supports Option 2 to amend Standard 1.3.3 – Processing Aids, to approve the use of dimethyl ether as a processing aid (solvent), and specification in Standard 1.3.4. We are satisfied that the proposed use of dimethyl ether is technologically justified and that no public health or safety concerns were identified.

MAF agrees with FSANZ that the solvent is of very low oral toxicity and its impact in the diet from use as an extraction solvent for dairy and non-dairy ingredients, with a maximum level of up to 2mg/kg, will represent a negligible dietary risk to consumers. However, MAF suggests that the applicant provides further information on the relative insensitivity of the test method on which the maximum level is based in comparison to the reported EFSA method and maximum level of 9µg/kg.

Yours sincerely



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