

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question:** E12-059

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** FSANZ GMO

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Siewert

**Question:**

In August 2011 FSANZ approved 2,4-D tolerant GM corn line DAS-40278-9.

Is it true that this corn escapes labelling and may be included in high fructose corn syrup and starches?

**Answer:**

In accordance with labelling provisions in Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, food derived from corn line DAS-40278-9 must be labelled as “genetically modified” if it contains novel DNA or novel protein, or has altered characteristics. Food from DAS-40278-9 does not have altered characteristics.

DAS-40278-9 is a dent corn that is mostly processed into refined products such as corn syrup and corn starch which, because of processing, are unlikely to contain protein or DNA and hence, are unlikely to require labelling. Similarly, in the production process for refined corn oil, protein and DNA are not likely to be present and the oil would be unlikely to require labelling.

DAS-40278-9 corn products such as meal (used in bread and polenta) and grits (used in cereals) are likely to contain protein and DNA, and if so, would require labelling. Should DAS-40278-9 be used in crosses to produce sweet corn, the kernels are also likely to require labelling.