



October 2014

Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
By email [submissions@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:submissions@foodstandards.gov.au)

**Re: Submission to Food Standards Australia New Zealand - Application A1092 - Irradiation of Specific Fruits & Vegetables**

CHOICE appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) on Application A1092 - Irradiation of Specific Fruits and Vegetables.

CHOICE has worked actively on food labelling for many years, and issues in this area regularly rank among the top concerns of our 160,000 members. At a fundamental level, we support the right of consumers to make informed decisions about the food they choose to eat, based on transparent information about how and where it is produced.

CHOICE has reviewed the application made by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and we have no major concerns with the proposal as it continues the requirement that irradiated foods are properly labelled.

Standard 1.5.3 requires that irradiated foods or foods containing irradiated ingredients or components must be labelled with a statement to the effect that the food/ingredient/component has been treated with ionising radiation. CHOICE supports this requirement as proper labelling is vitally important, especially in the case of emerging technologies.

CHOICE recognises that technologies such as irradiation have the potential to deliver consumer benefits in terms of food safety, convenience, greater availability, and reduced use of herbicides and pesticides. However, lack of evidence of harm does not indicate lack of harm. A precautionary approach must be taken to reduce the impact of any as-yet unknown and unintended negative consequences, and provide information so that consumers can exercise their right to make informed choices.

Consumers are legitimately raising concerns about new technologies and have the right to make their own decisions based on transparent information - be it to purchase or avoid them - for safety, environmental, religious or ethical reasons. Giving consumers the information they need to make informed choices enhances consumer confidence in the food supply chain and gives consumers autonomy to decide whether they consume irradiated products or not.

**Unlocking the power of consumers**

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If an increasing number of foods are allowed to be irradiated then we urge FSANZ to ensure that labelling of irradiation continues to be a requirement. This will give consumers the capacity to make informed decisions about whether they support new technologies, while evidence of their long-term safety is emerging.

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Policy & Campaigns Advisor

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