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31 July 2016

To the FSANZ

RE: Reject Application A1115: Stop the irradiation of Blueberries and Raspberries

I wish to write to you to express my serious concern with the proposal for the irradiation of blueberries and raspberries and request that Application A1115 is not approved.

Irradiation would result in berries being exposed to ionising radiation at doses ranging from 150 Gray (Gy) - 1 kGy - equivalent to exposing them to approximately 1.5 million – 10 million chest X-rays. Ionising radiation changes the molecular structure of food, producing free-radicals, depleting antioxidants such as vitamin C and nutrition, and creating chemical compounds unique to radiation exposure. This is not in the best interest of consumers.

Numerous scientific studies have shown potential health risks associated with irradiating food. For example, in 2008 -2009 up to one hundred Australian cats developed neurological disorders linked to the consumption of irradiated cat food¹. The risk to humans has not been ruled out.

Irradiation is not necessary for quarantine purposes of pest management as both radiation-free and chemical-free options exist.

I appreciate you noting my concern and request you reject A1115 for the above noted reasons. I look forward to your response and to working with you to keep our food nutritious, healthy and safe for all Australians and New Zealanders.

Kind regards

Louise Davies

¹ [REDACTED]
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