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10 December 2020

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Email: submission@foodstandards.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Application A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Our company produces ready-made salad products which offer a balanced and healthy contribution to consumers diets.

Just like whole produce, our salads must meet biosecurity requirements. Some of our salads require ingredients like tomato that is approved of treatment with irradiation and cucumber which is yet to be approved.

This means we can treat tomatoes with irradiation and achieve the regular shelf life but must fumigate cucumber significantly damaging its shelf life. Due to these complications, we are severely restricted in supplying some markets which sees the market go underserved and prices for consumers rise.

The lack of a generic approval for all fruit and vegetable under standard 1.5.3 restricts our business and the diets of consumers that we cannot service. The fragmented nature of regulations whether biosecurity, food standards or other is a major burden on industry and a disruption to supply.

We support and appreciate the thorough food standards that we enjoy and can trust in this country and ask that submission A1193 is carefully considered for the benefit of businesses that provide healthy food solutions while, competing for shelf space with lower nutritional content products.

Yours faithfully

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