

10/12/2020

To Food Standards Australia New Zealand,

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

Seeka is a New Zealand fresh produce company that has built a fully integrated orchard to market business. Seeka owns and operates fresh fruit production in both Australia and New Zealand and sells this fruit to markets around the world.

Kiwifruit is a very import crop for Seeka with over 1,500 hectares of production in New Zealand and Australia. It is an ongoing challenge for the company to develop and maintain supply to markets due to the biosecurity requirements that must be met.

Kiwifruit is a crop that is yet to be approved under FSANZ Standard 1.5.3 which we urgently wish to see change. Application A1193 demonstrates that phytosanitary irradiation is an effective, safe and valuable tool that should be available to all fruit or vegetable crops consumed in New Zealand and Australia.

The seasonal and regional nature of the fresh produce supply chain requires flexible, sustainable and safe solutions. Commercial trade of crops such as mangoes and table grapes have proven phytosanitary irradiation one of the most reliable and commercially effective biosecurity treatments available.

Delaying the generic approval of such an effective treatment for the remaining fruit and vegetable crops like Kiwifruit places the greater industry at risk of new pests. This directly increases the risk of disrupted supply chains and reduced consumer access to healthy and nutritious Kiwifruit.

Sincerely,

