

[REDACTED]

From: submissions
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 10:42 PM
To: submissions <submissions@foodstandards.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Dear Food Standards Australia New Zealand

ReSubmission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

My diet is mainly organic fruits and vegetables and NOT prepacked chemical-laden foods. I thought by moving to Australia I was then able to buy fresh non-GM foods. I am horrified to hear that your mainstream chemical driven farming practices have now come to need irradiation to kill pests and break down the vitamins and enzymes of these foods (Safety and nutritional adequacy of irradiated food, WHO).

I actually prefer to have bugs still in my lettuce leaves and cabbages. It assures me that the fruit and vegetables have not been tampered with! If you have any interest in keeping Australians healthy you will stop this stupidity. Although the WHO (1996) report studies indicate irradiated foods are safe for humans, the studies do not include for multiple layers of additional daily non-ionising radiation exposure (wifi tec, 5G + microwaving foods, etc) and low-level exposure over many years. That report was written in 1996, since then there have been many studies on health effects from food-irradiation.

. <https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues/1039/food-irradiation>

We do not have long term studies to show that irradiated foods are safe over the long term. Let's face it, the Public Health literature indicates that the Australian population are getting sicker, more obese and cancer prevalence is on a staggering level of increase. Is removing more nutritional value in our food going to help this? Has cancer levels in humans decreased? Absolutely NO.

I oppose the blanket approval of irradiation for all fresh fruit and vegetables. Numerous studies have shown the potential health risks posed by irradiated food. The approval of regularly eaten fruit and vegetables could significantly increase the amount of irradiated food in our diet.

I have concerns about the wholesomeness of irradiated food as well as the environmental and social impacts of irradiating our food. Numerous alternatives to irradiation exist and I do not believe that the irradiation of these fruits for quarantine purposes benefits my family. I am also worried that irradiated food will not be adequately labelled.

In 2003, concerns over the safety of irradiated food led the European Union Irradiation to rule out further irradiation approvals. The Australian Senate followed suit with a call for approvals to be halted until further research has been conducted. **Claims that irradiated foods are safe are**

indefensible as no research on long term consumption of an irradiated diet have been conducted.

Irradiation has been shown to deplete vitamin C, vitamin A, proteins, essential fatty acids and other nutrients in food and has been linked to health problems such as nutritional deficiencies, immune system disorders, abnormal lymph cells, and genetic damage.

In 2008-9, irradiation was responsible for neurological disorders leading to paralysis and in some cases, death, of up to one hundred Australian pet cats. Irradiated cat food is now banned in Australia. The European Food Safety Authority acknowledges that the risk to humans cannot be ruled out.

While irradiation is promoted as beneficial to Australian farmers; each approval also enables irradiated imports from overseas. Irradiation is a tool of large agri-business – and supports mass production systems that diminish the power of local food producers and destroy local markets.

Irradiation will not eliminate the use of chemicals and pesticides in crop production; it will be used in conjunction with these and other food processes.

Finally, I am not confident that these fruits will be adequately labelled. This will lead to foods being marketed as “fresh” though they are processed. Irradiated food and their packages must be individually labelled “treated with radiation” or “irradiated.” A1092 does not assure me that this will be the case.

In Europe, all **foods** or ingredients of **foods** that have been **irradiated** must be labelled as '**irradiated**' or 'treated with ionising **radiation**' in order to allow consumers to make an informed choice. (www.efsa.europa.eu).

For all these reasons I call on you to reject A1193 and to rescind all previous irradiation approvals. I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

