

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 December 2020 3:38 PM
To: submissions <submissions@foodstandards.gov.au>
[REDACTED]

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

To whom it may concern:

I am shocked to hear that FSANZ has changed the date of public consultation on this important matter without properly informing the public. I ask you to extend the public consultation period.
I oppose the blanket approval of irradiation for all fresh fruit and vegetables. I cannot imagine that irradiated food will benefit the health of our society.
I personally do not want to be eating anything other than food that is unadulterated and as it is supposed to be grown - naturally from the earth.

It is well known that X-rays to humans can be harmful in large doses, so I can only imagine what this irradiation will be doing to our food? I am sure that it also will be harmful.

I believe that the Australian public should be well notified if they are eating irradiated food and it should be labelled appropriately (similarly to GM foods).

In 2003, concerns over the safety of irradiated food led the European Union 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 has 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.

For 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]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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