

## submissions

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**From:** Michael McDowall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 November 2012 5:25 AM  
**To:** submissions  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** APPLICATION A1069: IRRADIATION OF TOMATOES & CAPSICUMS  
  
**Categories:** Blue Category

6th November 2012

Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
P O Box 7186  
CANBERRA  
ACT 2610  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **APPLICATION A1069: IRRADIATION OF TOMATOES & CAPSICUMS**

Primor Produce Limited is pleased to support this application to FSANZ as a phytosanitary measure for both tomatoes and capsicums. Primor Produce Limited has been involved in importing tomatoes and capsicums from Australia to New Zealand for over 15 years. The recent restriction on the use of dimethoate as a post-harvest treatment has significantly impacted on this area of our business. In the 2012 export season for tomatoes and capsicums has resulted in no trade at all when we would have expected to do approx. \$200K worth of business.

We believe that it is important to have a range of options available in the treatment “toolbox” to allow growers and exporters to conduct safe trade and to meet their customers’ needs. Primor Produce Limited has supported a number of project initiatives over many years to develop a range of viable options to allow the trade to continue. Although several options are being considered, we note that there are currently no options approved for tomatoes and capsicums to facilitate winter exports to New Zealand. As a result, irradiation will not only provide a new option it could well be the choice of many growers/exporters/importers. We see it as vital that alternative solutions be immediately granted with irradiation being a clear option.

Primor Produce Limited also request that FSANZ fast-tracks all current phytosanitary related horticultural applications as a generic group for phytosanitary purposes. Assessments of treated tomatoes and capsicums show that there are no nutrient or food safety related issues associated with low dose irradiation treatments used for phytosanitary disinfestation purposes. The use of a generic approach will speed up the application process and will greatly reduce the cost to industry.

I trust this submission supporting *Application A1069* is viewed favourably by FSANZ and results in the irradiation treatment option being available for the export of tomatoes and capsicums from Australia to New Zealand in time for the 2013 winter import season.

Yours sincerely,

Michael McDowall  
Director  
Primor Produce Limited