

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 3:25 PM
To: submissions
Subject: with regard to Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation...for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Categories: [REDACTED]

To Food Standards Australia New Zealand,

I am not happy that FSANZ changed the final date of submissions and ask you to extend the public consultation period.

I oppose the blanket approval of irradiation of irradiation for all fresh fruit and vegetables.

My experience thus far is that when one buys irradiated fruit it is unripe, and never ripens. It's a complete waste of money. Once I've bought fruit like that from a vendor, I will never buy from them again. I've already begun growing my own fruit to ensure that I have a permanent supply of alternatives.

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.

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 could weaken or undermine local farmers 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.

For these reasons I call on you to reject A1193 and to rescind all previous irradiation approvals.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]