

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 December 2020 1:45 PM
To: submissions
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Categories: [REDACTED]

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

We have long recognised that the basis of good health is clean, nutritious diet choices. The complexity of the issues surrounding the submission, potential ramifications, lack of public scrutiny and opportunity to respond is concerning. There is insufficient consultation and adequate supporting evidence to show that irradiation does not affect the nutritional quality of food and causes no harmful effects to human health. I am therefore not in favour of the proposal.

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.

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 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.”

For these reasons I call on you to reject A1193 in its current form and to review previous irradiation approvals. I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

