

Submission - Application A1193 - Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Your proposal to enforce irradiation under the pretext “as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables” (FSANZ 2020, pg. i) is scientifically faulty and dangerous in light of the medical and scientific research emanating regarding the neurodegenerative impacts of irradiated foods. It is very courageous of you to be pursuing such a controversial application that is devoid of both scientific research or sound reasoning.

Please be aware, based on feline models, that irradiated diets induced “profound, chronic demyelinating-remyelinating disease” of the entire central nervous system, additionally irradiated foods specifically were identified as myelinotoxic (Radcliff et al. 2020). Irradiated foods, in feline models, also caused ataxia and paralysis, rendering the subjects as quadriplegic/“tetraplegic” (Child et al. 2009). The felines were euthanised as a result of the neurodegeneration, as their quality of life was unnecessarily compromised. If these profound neurodegenerative impacts are observed in feline models, one is horrified at what will occur to humans who consume irradiated foods. The consequences are too hideous to contemplate. Your reasoning to pursue your controversial application is not based on scientific research, and it is overt that you are not practicing evidence-based research, therefore your argument is weak and illogical. Please cease and desist your proposal to enforce irradiation of fresh fruits and vegetables, as your proposal is scientifically unsound since it is not based on evidence-based research and, worse still, it is unwise. Your proposal will not be socially accepted, and you risk losing your social licence, especially as the scientific research explicitly demonstrates profound neurodegenerative impacts on subjects. Your proposal will render neurodegeneration and lifelong disability in humans, subsequently engendering successful legal action to be taken against you, which makes it economically unwise to be pursuing your controversial proposal. Until there are long term studies demonstrating no negative effects for Humans from irradiation for fresh fruits and vegetables, it remains negligent, and legally irresponsible to pursue your controversial proposal.

Works cited:

FSANZ 2020, Call for submissions – *Application A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables*, FSANZ: Kingston, ACT.

Child, G., Foster, D.J., Fougere, B.J., Milan, J.M., and Rozmanec, M. 2009, “Ataxia and paralysis in cats in Australia associated with exposure to an imported gamma-irradiated commercial dry pet food”, *Australian Veterinary Journal* vol. 87, no. 9, pg. 349-351, DOI: 10.1111/j.1751-0813.2009.00475.x

Radcliff, A.B., Heidari, M., Field, A.S., and Duncan, I.D. 2020, “Feline irradiated diet-induced demyelination; a model of the neuropathology of sub-acute combined degeneration?”, *PLoS One* vol. 15, no. 1, DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0228109](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228109)

