

## submissions

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**From:** Martin Oliver [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 March 2016 4:51 PM  
**To:** submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Rec 34: Review required labelling of irradiated foods

Dear Sir / Madam,

I strongly support the existing labelling of irradiated food in Australia, and would like to see this strengthened in two areas:

- A requirement for individual sticker labelling of irradiated produce.
- Specified mandatory wording in place of the current wording guidelines.

Given the low-level of interest in the marketplace for foods that have been treated using non-natural technologies such as irradiation, I believe that to remove this labelling requirement would be a de facto marketing technique causing people to purchase irradiated food who would otherwise want to avoid it.

I do not believe that irradiated food is inherently safe. In 2008-2009, dozens of Australian cats suffered fatal neurological damage after eating cat food that had been heavily irradiated on its entry into the country. Australia still maintains a ban on irradiating imported cat food.

Food irradiation results in the depletion of some essential vitamins. Furthermore, substances known as radiolytic byproducts, some of which are harmful to human health, are created in low concentrations.

If 'the safety and benefits of irradiation to consumers' are to be promoted, then I do not believe that the associated costs should be borne by the taxpayer.

Similarly, any moves to 'reduce disincentives for increased uptake and broader application of the technology by industry' should not be achieved by any dismantling of the present labelling regime.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Oliver  
[REDACTED]

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