

Project Officer Application A1261  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 10559  
Wellington 6140

15 March 2024

Tēnā koe,

## **A1261 – Irradiation – Increase in maximum energy level**

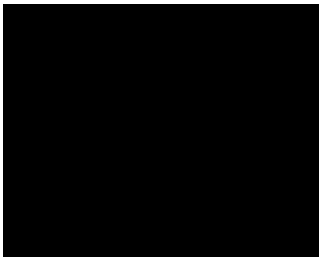
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) supports the draft variation to amend Standard 1.5.3 -7(b) of the Food Standards Code, to allow X-rays generated by or from machine sources operated at an energy level not exceeding 5 megaelectronvolts; or if the machine source uses tantalum or gold as the target material at an energy level not exceeding 7.5 megaelectronvolts.

NZFS agrees with FSANZ's safety and risk assessment that concluded that no potential public health and safety concerns were identified in the assessment of this application. We note the change is technologically justified. It increases the efficiency of generating X-rays to irradiate food and results in an increase in processing capacity, with no change to the absorbed dose of irradiation in foods.

We note the change is consistent with standards for irradiated foods internationally, including the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2023 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures.

Nāku noa, nā



**Acting Manager Food Science  
New Zealand Food Safety**