



7 November 2012

Project Officer Application A1069
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6036

FS350-117-1069

Dear Sir/Madam

Application A1069 – Irradiation of Tomatoes and Capsicums – Call for submissions

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has the following comments to make.

MPI supports Option 1, to prepare draft variations to Standard 1.5.3 – Irradiation of Food, to permit the irradiation of tomatoes and capsicums as a phytosanitary measure. We are satisfied that the proposed irradiation is technologically justified and that no public health or safety concerns were identified, including that potential effects on vitamin levels may be smaller than those typically due to processes such as cooking, drying, storage or ripening.

While MPI supports irradiation as a phytosanitary measure against pests, as noted in the documents, further import risk assessments for quarantine purposes are required. When developing an import health standard to enable entry to New Zealand it is necessary to risk assess all organisms. MPI aims to complete this work within the FSANZ timeframes allowed for this application.

Yours sincerely

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Manager Food Science and Risk Assessment