

submissions

From: Phyllis Menos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 4:28 PM
To: submissions
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Reject Application A1115: irradiation of Blueberries and Raspberries

I want to express my objection to the irradiation of blueberries and raspberries, as per NSW government Application to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to irradiate blueberries and raspberries.

Berries are considered by many to be “superfoods” and valued for their high antioxidant levels, anthocyanin and Vitamin C content. Irradiation would see these tiny berries exposed to ionising radiation at doses ranging from 150 Gray (Gy) - 1 kGy. This is equivalent to exposing them to approximately 1.5 million – 10 million chest X-rays (calculated at the low end of chest X-ray exposure).

Ionising radiation changes the molecular structure of food, producing free-radicals, depleting antioxidants such as vitamin C and nutrition, and creating chemical compounds unique to radiation exposure. Numerous scientific studies have shown potential health risks associated with irradiating food. In fact, in **2008 -2009 up to one hundred Australian cats developed neurological disorders linked to the consumption of irradiated cat food.** The risk to humans has not been ruled out.

From my research irradiation is unnecessary for pest control as numerous alternatives exist. Labeling is not guaranteed as labeling is currently under review. As a voter & supporter of community health, I will not look kindly at having labeling of ingredients/processes compromised or watered down.

It is my will that our foods, especially the ones subject to this application are not subjected to irradiation, **it is a toxic process, putting the health of Australian, adults, especially elderly and children at risk.** It would be unconscionable, irresponsible, impacting on personal levels of health, but also increase the cost of the health budget.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Menos
[REDACTED]