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July 5th, 2016
SUBMISSION

Reference: Application A1115: Irradiation of Blueberries and Raspberries

To Food Standards Australia and New Zealand,

We are writing to you to advise that we fully support the application submitted by NSW Department of Primary Industries for the amendment of the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include blueberries and raspberries as approved items for the use of irradiation as a pest disinfestation treatment for a phytosanitary purpose.

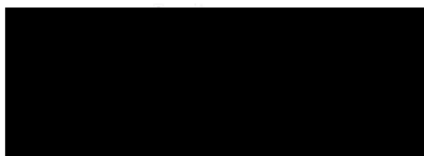
We strongly believe these approvals will allow all growers, marketers, exporters, retailers and other associated supply chain members greater and more efficient access to Australian domestic markets under the ICA-55 protocol, as well as export markets, and that irradiation provides to them all an efficacious and sustainable additional post – harvest disinfestation option.

Further more, we believe by approving this phytosanitary treatment for blueberries and raspberries, consumers will gain greater access to both higher quality and fresher blueberries and raspberries than the current requirements for distribution allow, ultimately benefiting the consumer through an enhanced choice of healthy, affordable food options year round.

We also support this application because of the potential benefits for the environment and public health, recognizing that the process is both chemical and gas free unlike many alternative methods of treatment utilized previously and or presently in the distribution of fresh produce, including chemical dips and sprays (Dimethoate and/or Fenthion) and fumigants (Methyl Bromide).

We additionally recognize that the option to treat blueberries and raspberries using phytosanitary irradiation has the potential to reduce food spoilage and waste, due to the speed of the treatment and ability to maintain the cold chain for these highly temperature sensitive products during treatment. These two advantages when combined are unique to the irradiation process and will reduce associated costs (financial and environmental) that impact both consumer and industry.

Yours Sincerely



Murray Lynch
CEO Steritech