

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 10:17 AM
To: submissions
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables
Categories: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] objections in regards to the changes made on public consultation. It is unfair that the general public are not even aware of what is being proposed and it will be those people who will be purchasing and eating this food.

I ask you to extend the public consultation period.

I oppose the blanket approval of irradiation of irradiation for all fresh fruit and vegetables. I have concerns about the nutritional availability of irradiated food as well as the environmental and social impacts of irradiating our food. Numerous alternatives to irradiation exist and I do not believe that the irradiation of these fruits for quarantine purposes benefits my family or community. I am also worried that irradiated food will not be adequately labelled. It is far too hard to find labelling that is accurate because there are no firm laws about being transparent. Irradiated food is processed food and should be clearly marked as such to give the consumer the choice of where and what they purchase.

Numerous studies have shown the potential health risks posed by irradiated food. The approval of regularly eaten fruit and vegetables could significantly increase the amount of irradiated food in our diet. We are well aware that when discussing toxins it is about the 'dose' or the 'load' on the body. There is no way to regulate this load on a person when treated fruits and vegetables are encouraged to be eaten in large doses by all health officials. I myself have several auto immune diseases and my family members with cancer require FRESH fruit and vegetables not irradiated processed food.

Having worked on both traditional and organic farms I am aware first hand of the numerous 'treatments' fresh food is subjected to while growing in the mono culture farms. The use of poisons on a weekly basis on many farms is the 'dirty secret' that nobody wants to talk about. This prevents health officials and governing bodies to have no real 'teeth' when it comes to safe practices.

Irradiation will not eliminate the use of chemicals and pesticides in crop production; it will be used in conjunction with these and other food processes. The abundance of poisons being used is degrading our soils, contributing to climate change and irradiated food is not in line with where our future food should be headed.

In 2003, concerns over the safety of irradiated food led the European Union Irradiation to rule out further irradiation approvals. The Australian Senate followed suit with a call for approvals to be halted until further research has been conducted. Claims that irradiated foods are safe are indefensible as no research on long term consumption of an irradiated diet have been conducted.

Irradiation has been shown to deplete vitamin C, vitamin A, proteins, essential fatty acids and other nutrients in food and has been linked to health problems such as nutritional deficiencies, immune system disorders, abnormal lymph cells, and genetic damage.

In 2008-9, irradiation was responsible for neurological disorders leading to paralysis and in some cases, death, of up to one hundred Australian pet cats. Irradiated cat food is now banned in Australia. The European Food Safety Authority acknowledges that the risk to humans cannot be ruled out.

While irradiation is promoted as beneficial to Australian farmers; each approval also enables irradiated imports from overseas. Irradiation is a tool of large agri-business – and supports mass production systems that diminish the power of local food producers and destroy local markets.

Finally, I am not confident that these fruits will be adequately labelled. This will lead to foods being marketed as “fresh” though they are processed. Irradiated food and their packages must be individually labelled “treated with radiation” or “irradiated.” A1092 – Irradiation of Specific Fruits & Vegetables does not assure me that this will be the case.

For these reasons I call on you to reject A1193 and to rescind all previous irradiation approvals. I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Thank you,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.