

SUBMISSION

To: Food Standards Australia New Zealand - Standards Management Officer
email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

SCANNED

RE: APPLICATION A1038 IRRADIATION OF PERSIMMONS

I oppose the irradiation of persimmons and am concerned by the proposed changes to Food Standards. While grown in Australia, persimmons are a common and much loved fruit in Japan and other parts of Asia. I understand, therefore, that the bulk of irradiated persimmons may be for the export market. This, however, does not lessen my concern.

Numerous scientific studies have exposed the potential harmful effects of food irradiation.

- Years of scientific research have shown that "radiolytic products" -chemicals created when food is exposed to radiation - can be harmful to our health.
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand acknowledges that irradiation depletes the nutritional value of food.
- I am aware that there may be further irradiation applications and that herbs, spices, herbal infusions and some tropical fruits are already approved for irradiation. I am, therefore, greatly concerned about the cumulative affect of eating an irradiated diet.

Between 2008 and 2009, approximately 90 Australian cats developed neurological disorders which lead to their paralysis and, in some cases, death. The cause was the consumption of irradiated cat food. These cases are clear evidence that irradiation can have harmful, and possibly not yet understood, impacts on the quality of food and on consumer's health.

The irradiation of cat food is now banned in Australia, however, we are asked to consider irradiating food for human consumption.

I believe that irradiating Australian produce for export could seriously damage Australia's reputation as a producer of clean, healthy, and pure foods. As there are numerous options and practices already in place for pest control, and no requirement from our trading partners to use irradiation, there is no justification to use irradiation for quarantine controls.

Furthermore, I am extremely concerned that both the current and proposed labelling regulations deny my right to choose whether or not to consume irradiated food. There is no requirement for individual labelling/stickering of irradiated fruit. The Standard allows for signage nearby the product to be used instead. A sign is not a label. I call on you to amend Food Standards to ensure that, if a food is irradiated, it will be labelled as such and that non-packaged irradiated products, such as fruit, will be individually labelled. Labelling must include the words "**irradiated**" or "**treated with radiation**."

I will not purchase irradiated persimmons and I will not feed irradiated food to my family.

In the interest of public health, I call on you to decline approval for the irradiation of persimmons, to refuse any further irradiation approvals and to cancel all previous irradiation approvals.

Additional comments:

Name: Kerryn Griffiths Signature: KG
Address: Byron Bay, NSW
Date: 9-4-11
Submissions are due by 6pm (Canberra time) 27 April 2011

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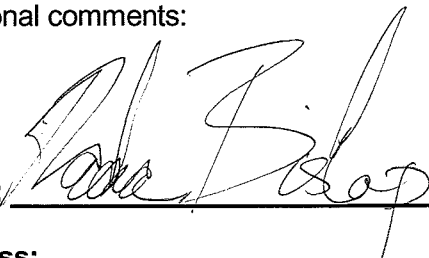
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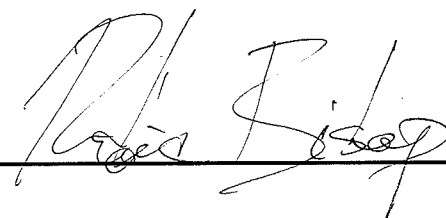
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Seamons, Colleen

From: Janenne Kornfeld [janennek@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, 16 April 2011 9:39 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Application A1038 for the irradiation of persimmons
Categories: Green Category

SCANNED

RE: Application A1038 for the irradiation of persimmons:

I strongly oppose the irradiation of persimmons as well as any foodstuffs for either human or animal consumption. While not commonly eaten in Australia, they are a common and loved fruit in Japan and other parts of Asia. I understand that the bulk of irradiated persimmons would, therefore, be for the export market. Numerous scientific studies have exposed the harmful effects of food irradiation. Fortunately, numerous alternatives exist and can be used for domestic and overseas markets requiring quarantine controls. I believe that there is no technological need to irradiate persimmons and that irradiating Australian produce for export could seriously damage our reputation as a producer of clean, healthy, natural/pure foods. If food is irradiated, I believe it must individually labelled with the words "irradiated" or "treated with radiation" so that consumers can exercise their right to choose. I will not purchase irradiated persimmons and I would not feed them to my family!