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Submission by email to :
FSANZ
submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

December 7, 2020

Regarding:

Application A1193 Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

The International Irradiation Association promotes the safe and beneficial uses of irradiation on behalf of its members who include all major players in the industry and science of radiation processing. We recently created the Phytosanitary Irradiation Platform, a professional association that is dedicated to the advancement of the commercial application of phytosanitary irradiation globally.

We closely watch the developments of this useful application in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region and are pleased to see its continuous growth. We estimate that the global trade of products irradiated for phytosanitary purpose will reach 50,000 tons in 2020. Though not a panacea, irradiation has unique advantages to provide consumers with premium quality fresh produce.

In 1980, a Joint WHO/FAO/IAEA Expert Committee on Food Irradiation declared irradiated food safe and wholesome (WHO Technical Report Series no 659 – Geneva, 1981). One of the expected implications was that it would no longer be necessary to assess the safety and nutritional adequacy of any food class product by product. We therefore support the FSANZ proposal to permit irradiation for all fruit and vegetables under the conditions that have been specified. The same type of clearance has been given in other countries, including the U.S who is currently the largest importer of irradiated fruit and vegetable.

Australia and New Zealand were the first countries to sign a bilateral agreement leading to the first international shipment of irradiated fresh produce in 2005. If successful, the submission will allow further expansion of this beneficial technology in which Australia and New Zealand are expected to keep playing a prominent role.

Sincerely,

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