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8 September 2014

To the Director  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand Food Standards  
PO Box 7186  
CANBERRA ACT 2610 AUSTRALIA

Dear Madam /Sir

**Reference APPLICATION A1092: Irradiation of Specific Fruits and Vegetables:**

Application to FSANZ to amend the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include apples; apricots; cherries; honeydew melons; nectarines; peaches; plums; rockmelons; scallopini, strawberries; table grapes & zucchini ( courgette) .

Cherry Growers Australia (CGA) is writing to you to advise that our industry supports the application submitted by Qld DAFF, for the amendment of the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include apples; apricots; cherries; honeydew melons; nectarines; peaches; plums; rockmelons; scallopini, strawberries; table grapes & zucchini (courgette), on the approvals list for the use of irradiation as a pest disinfection treatment for a phyto-sanitary purpose.

CGA believe these approvals will allow all producers, exporters and supply chain operatives enhanced 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 disinfection option.

In relation to our industry we have already had discussions with the governments of Thailand, USA and a few other countries on exporting cherries to them using the prescribed levels agreed to under international protocols and we look forward to doing this in the future and once agreed as part of market improvement negotiations.

On the domestic market, irradiation will provide another option for growers to use to ensure there fruit is free of fruit fly and also the need for chemical usage is reduced both pre and post harvest depending on the growing region in Australia that cherries are grown.

If you require any further information please call or email me.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Boughey  
Chief Executive officer