



Enquiries to: Food Safety Standards and
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Dear Sir / Madam

Submission: A1191 – Mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) as a glazing agent for fruits and vegetables.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Call for submissions paper for Application A1191.

This submission provides technical advice and comments related to this issue. The submission does not represent a Queensland Government position, which will be a matter for the Queensland Government when notification is made by the FSANZ Board to the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation.

Our submission relates to the technological justification for the use of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) as a glazing agent for fruits and vegetable. FSANZ presents data showing that when INS 471 is used as a glazing agent for asparagus, lemons and avocado, they have a longer visual shelf life compared with no treatment, or wax coating in the case of lemons. Retention of 'fresh' appearance is due to the inhibition of water loss and respiration. The use of INS 471 is also technologically justified because it can be applied to delicate fruits and vegetables, which cannot withstand the coating process used with waxes and resins.

However, data is not provided, either in the Call for submissions paper or Supporting document, about the effect of INS 471 on flavour, texture and nutrient composition of the fruit and vegetables to which it is applied. If INS 471 changes respiration rate because it does not allow the ingress of oxygen to, or escape of carbon dioxide and ethylene from, respiring tissue, does this result in unacceptable flavour development or tissue softening? If so, the retention of fresh appearance has the potential to deceive the consumer about the eating quality of a fruit or vegetable glazed with INS 471.

Food Safety Standards and Regulation Unit
Health Protection Branch
Department of Health
Queensland Government

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