

New Zealand Food Safety

Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

OIA23-0054

6 March 2023

Athina Andonatonou
fyi-request-21718-c68cadf9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Athina Andonatonou

Thank you for your email of 3 February 2023 requesting information relating to products approved for irradiation. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

Please provide a list of the all the products approved for irradiation in New Zealand

Please provide a detailed list of all foods, herbs, spices or any other food based product that have been approved for use in New Zealand and are included under Standard 1.5.3 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

Standard 1.5.3 of the Food Standards Code allows for imported fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs and spices and plant material for a herbal infusion to be irradiated at specific doses and sources of radiation. Please refer to Food Standards Code regarding irradiation here: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022C00975>.

Pursuant to section 18(d) of the OIA the eligible fresh fruits and vegetables and herbs and spices are listed in Schedule 22 of the Food Standards Code here: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022C00970>. Note 'plant material for herbal infusion' is defined as "fresh, dried or fermented leaves, flowers and other parts of plants used to make beverages, but does not include tea."

All food businesses are responsible for complying with the requirements of Standard 1.5.3. This includes registered importers and retailers, who must keep their own records as per the requirements of Standard 1.5.3—8 and label food as per the requirements of Standard 1.5.3—9 so that consumers are informed if a food is irradiated.

Because the primary purpose of food irradiation is to protect New Zealand's biosecurity, it is not primarily a Food Safety concern, provided food businesses follow appropriate requirements as discussed above and set out in Standard 1.5.3.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz.



Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Cook', is written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Roger Cook
Director, Food Science and Risk Assessment