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File Ref: QCHO/5887

7 November 2012

Standards Management Officer  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 7186  
Canberra BC ACT 2610

Dear Sir / Madam

**Submission – Application A1069 – Irradiation of Tomatoes and Capsicums**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Call for Submissions for Application A1069.

This submission provides technical advice and comments related to this issue. It was prepared with the advice of officers from other relevant Queensland Government agencies. 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 Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation.

The use of dimethoate for phytosanitary measures for tomatoes and capsicums is now restricted and since 31 October 2012, the post harvest use of fenthion has been suspended. Therefore, other options such as irradiation need to be considered. The availability of suitable phytosanitary measures has potential economic benefits for the Queensland economy.

It is noted that the FSANZ assessment concluded that available studies indicate that irradiating tomatoes and capsicums does not pose a significant human health risk for Australian and New Zealand consumers.

It appears that current detection methods should be able to detect whether foods have been irradiated, for example to check labelling compliance, though there may be additional costs for enforcement agencies adapting and validating the analytical methods. Queensland Health may also bear some costs auditing records at irradiation facilities.

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