

Standard 1.5.3 - Irradiation of Food - Food Standards (Proposal P1025 - Code Revision) Variation—Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code - Amendment No. 154

The Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand gives notice of the making of this standard under section 92 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*.

The Standard commences on 1 March 2016.

Dated 25 March 2015

Standards Management Officer, Delegate of the Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

Note:

This Standard will be published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. FSC 96 on 10 April 2015.

Note 1 This instrument is a standard under the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (Cth). The standards together make up the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*. See also section 1.1.1–3.

Note 2 The provisions of the Code that apply in New Zealand are incorporated in, or adopted under, the *Food Act 2014* (NZ). See also section 1.1.1–3.

Note 3 Paragraphs 1.1.1–10(3)(d) and (4)(h) provide that a food for sale must not consist of, or have as an ingredient or a component, a food that has been irradiated, unless expressly permitted by this Code. Division 2 of this Standard contains the relevant permissions.

Subsection 1.1.1–14(2) provides that, if this Code sets requirements for record-keeping in relation to food, those requirements must be complied with. Division 3 contains such requirements.

Division 1 Preliminary

1.5.3–1 Name

This Standard is *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* – Standard 1.5.3 – Irradiation of food.

Note Commencement: This Standard commences on 1 March 2016, being the date specified as the commencement date in notices in the *Gazette* and the *New Zealand Gazette* under section 92 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (Cth). See also section 93 of that Act.

1.5.3–2 Definitions

Note In this Code (see section 1.1.2–2):

irradiation, in relation to food, means subjecting the food to ionising radiation, other than ionising radiation imparted to food by measuring or inspection instruments, and **irradiate** and **irradiated** have corresponding meanings.

Division 2 Irradiation of food

1.5.3–3 Irradiation of fruit and vegetables

(1) Fruit and vegetables listed in subsection (2) may be irradiated for the purpose of pest disinfestation for a phytosanitary objective, if the absorbed dose is:

- (a) no lower than 150 Gy; and
- (b) no higher than 1 kGy.

(2) For subsection (1), the fruit and vegetables are:

Fruit and vegetables—table to subsection (2)

bread fruit
capsicum
carambola
custard apple
litchi
longan
mango
mangosteen
papaya (paw paw)
persimmon
rambutan
tomato

1.5.3—4 Irradiation of herbs and spices

(1) Herbs and spices may be irradiated for the purpose of controlling sprouting and pest disinfestation, including the control of weeds, if the absorbed dose is no higher than 6 kGy.

(2) Herbs and spices may be irradiated for the purpose of bacterial decontamination, if the absorbed dose is:

- (a) no lower than 2 kGy; and
- (b) no higher than 30 kGy.

(3) In this section:

herbs and spices means the herbs and spices described in Schedule 22.

1.5.3—5 Irradiation of plant material for a herbal infusion

(1) Plant material for a herbal infusion may be irradiated for the purpose of controlling sprouting and pest disinfestation, including the control of weeds, if the absorbed dose is no higher than 6 kGy.

(2) Plant material for a herbal infusion may be irradiated for the purpose of bacterial decontamination, if the absorbed dose is:

- (a) no lower than 2 kGy; and
- (b) no higher than 10 kGy.

(3) In this section:

plant material for a herbal infusion means fresh, dried or fermented leaves, flowers and other parts of plants used to make beverages, but does not include tea.

1.5.3—6 Re-irradiation of food

Food that has been irradiated may be re-irradiated if any of the following conditions is met:

- (a) the food is prepared from food, including ingredients, that have been irradiated at levels that do not exceed 1 kGy;
- (b) the food contains less than 50 g/kg of irradiated ingredients;
- (c) the required full dose of ionising radiation was applied to the food in divided doses for a specific technological reason.

1.5.3—7 Sources of radiation that may be used

Food may be irradiated in accordance with this Division using any of the following forms of ionising radiation:

- (a) gamma rays from the radionuclide cobalt 60;
- (b) X-rays generated by or from machine sources operated at an energy level not exceeding 5 megaelectronvolts;
- (c) electrons generated by or from machine sources operated at an energy level not exceeding 10 megaelectronvolts.

Division 3 Record-keeping for and labelling of irradiated food

1.5.3—8 Record-keeping

(1) A person who irradiates food must keep records in relation to:

- (a) the nature and quality of the food treated; and
- (b) the *lot identification; and
- (c) the minimum durable life of the food treated; and
- (d) the process used; and
- (e) compliance with the process used; and
- (f) the minimum and maximum dose absorbed by the food; and
- (g) an indication whether or not the product has been irradiated previously and if so, details of such treatment; and
- (h) the date of *irradiation.

(2) The records must be kept at the facility where the food was irradiated.

(3) The records must be kept for a period of time that exceeds the minimum durable life of the irradiated food by 1 year.

1.5.3—9 Labelling and other information—retail and catering

For the labelling provisions, the information relating to irradiated foods is:

- (a) if the food has been irradiated—a statement to the effect that the food has been treated with ionising radiation; and
- (b) if the food has as an ingredient or *component a food that has been irradiated—a statement to the effect that the ingredient or component has been treated with ionising radiation.

Note 1 The labelling provisions are set out in Standard 1.2.1. Labelling provisions apply to both packaged and unpackaged irradiated foods.

Note 2 For paragraph (b), the statement may be on the statement of ingredients or elsewhere on the label.

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