



## Importing irradiated food and ingredients

### Updates

Date	Information
March 2015	Includes February 2015 amendment to the Food Standards Code

This advisory outlines the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) expectation of food importers in relation to irradiated food and ingredients intended for sale for human consumption.

All importers and sellers **must** ensure the food they import and sell is safe and suitable. All imported products must comply with all applicable New Zealand legislation including the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) and Biosecurity Import Health Standards (IHS).

[Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code](#)

[Import Health Standards Search](#)

Under **Standard 1.5.3 Irradiation of Food** the Code permits the irradiation of specific foods including herbs, spices, herbal infusions, selected tropical fruits, persimmons, tomatoes and capsicums. The Standard also prohibits the irradiation of food, or ingredients or components of food, unless specific permission is given. The specific permission imposes conditions relating to matters such as dose, packaging materials, approved premises or facilities.

Amendment to Standard 1.5.3 of the Code on 26 February 2015 extended the range of fresh fruits and vegetables able to be irradiated to include apple, apricot, cherry, honeydew, nectarine, peach, plum, rock melon, scallopini, strawberry, table grape, and zucchini (courgette).

However these products are still not permitted into New Zealand until such time as a corresponding Import Health Standard is in place.

When importing any food or ingredients you must know whether or not it has been irradiated in order to comply with requirements. You should be aware that MPI may check compliance with the notified standards through visits to importers to inspect records or labelling, at any stage.

Where foods have been irradiated the Code requires these foods to carry a label so consumers can choose if they want to eat irradiated foods. For items such as fruit that do not carry labels, the mandatory



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statement must be displayed on or close to the food at the point of sale to make it clear that it has been treated with ionising radiation. Full details can be found in our labelling guide for irradiated foods:

[Labelling requirements for irradiated foods – information for businesses](#)

To assist further, the following fact sheet is also available.

[Food Irradiation Fact Sheet](#)

Importers must take all reasonable steps to:

1. Determine whether any food or ingredient they intend to import has been irradiated, and;
2. Ensure that product confirmed as irradiated is labelled appropriately and;
3. Where irradiated food is being sold take steps to inform their clients (whether wholesaler, retailer or consumer) that food is, or contains ingredients that are, irradiated.