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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

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RE: Docket No. 98N-1038

Dear FDA:

I do not believe the current irradiated food labeling is thorough enough. I would like to see a label that is distinct from the ingredient list label. The radiation disclosure statement is definitely informational and absolutely necessary to satisfy the consumers' right to know. The irradiation labeling contributes to my confidence rather than my anxiety.

I want NO alternative wording for irradiation. The meaning of the label should be clear, easily understood, and prominent enough on the package for quick and easy identification. Consumers are NOT misled by labeling; they are misled by the lack of it.

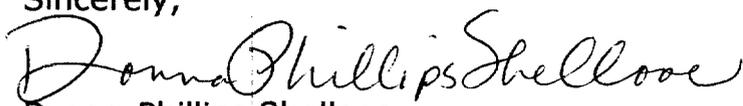
I am in favor of labeling all foods, including disclosure of all ingredients by standardized names without using terms that *imply* anything, as well as the state or condition of those ingredients at the point of incorporation. This should include irradiation of any ingredient. Consumers are misled by the absence of appropriate labeling.

I can only speak for myself as the grocery buyer and food preparer for my household: accurate and easy to read labeling helps me make informed decisions pertinent to food safety and therefore the health of my family. I think most consumers understand that irradiation kills bacteria and harmful microorganisms on food.

I do not believe the radura logo is understood well enough to be used alone. There must be an easily understood, written label *with* the radura logo in order to be completely informative.

The irradiation disclosure should continue as long as this process continues, with no expiration on the labeling requirement. There will always be young people and new families just starting out to buy their own groceries and prepare their own meals for the first time, who need to familiarize themselves with the irradiation label. Since the population is not static, the labeling definitely needs to continue.

Sincerely,

  
Donna Phillips Shellooe

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