

The Saint-Hyacinthe Research and Development Centre Irradiator

INFORMATION SHEET

DID YOU KNOW?

owned
since
1986

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's St-Hyacinthe Research and Development Centre (RDC) **has owned a Cobalt-60 irradiation apparatus since 1986.**



This irradiator can be used by the Department's research teams or by food processing companies, among others, **to sterilize products, while preserving the structural and nutritional integrity of food.**



Irradiation is the treatment of food with a type of energy called ionizing radiation. The radiation emitted by the irradiator is confined within the device. **There is therefore no emission of radioactive material.**



The RDC is licensed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. **The safety standards required by the commission are met at all times.**



Food irradiation can be used to eradicate microorganisms, control the proliferation of insects or slow the ripening of fresh fruits and vegetables.



The irradiator is inspected frequently by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. It is safe for the population and the environment.

