

4.30 Singapore



4.30.1 Singapore Guidelines on the Release of Agriculture-Related Genetically Modified Organisms (1999)

These Guidelines provide a framework for the approval procedure and the assessment of risks to human health and the environment posed by deliberate introduction of GM plants, animals, fishes, insects, microorganisms and vaccines used in agriculture, as well as primary food such as meat, eggs, fish, vegetables and fruit. The Guidelines cover agriculture-related organisms with genetic material that has been altered in a way that is unlikely to occur naturally by mating or natural recombination.

These Guidelines provide a common framework for assessment of risks of agriculture-related GMOs to human health and the environment; and approval mechanisms for their release in Singapore.

These Guidelines also address issues related to food safety based on the concept of substantial equivalence.

4.30.2 Biosafety Guidelines for Research on GMOs (2006)

The Guidelines are a strategy by the advisory committee to strive towards ensuring public safety while allowing for the commercial exploitation of GMOs and GMO-derived products by companies and research institutions in Singapore. It is the first local Guidelines specific to genetic modification research.

These Guidelines cover experiments that involve the construction and/or propagation of all biological entities (cells, organisms, prions, viroids or viruses) which have been made by genetic manipulation and are of a novel genotype and which are; unlikely to occur naturally or which could cause public health or environmental hazards. The experiments have been categorized into three categories based on level of risk "A" being that posing the highest risk where the type or level of hazard is unclear. Category 'B' includes experiments which have a low risk to laboratory workers, the public or the environment and experiments which do not pose a significant occupational or public health risk or environmental risk fall into the exemption category 'C'.

Large-scale and intentional release of genetically manipulated organisms will be regulated by the Singapore Guidelines on the Release of Agriculture-related GM Organisms.

Source:

1. *USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, GAIN Report Number: SN5005 Singapore Biotechnology Agricultural Biotechnology Report 2005. (Available on <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130251.pdf> ; accessed on 6 October 2007)*
2. *Singapore Guidelines on the Release of Agriculture-Related genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), p 31. (Available on http://www.gmac.gov.sg/Guidelines/download/Agriculture_Guidelines.pdf; accessed on 6 October 2007)*