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Biotechnology

GMO Labeling Requirement

2006

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Report Highlights:

The Head of the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being established on January 24, 2006 that consumer labeling is required for food products with greater than 0.9 percent GMO content.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Moscow [RS1]
[RS]

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Summary

Gennadiy G. Onishchenko, Head of the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being, clarified through letter #0100/446-06-32 of January 24, 2006, that consumer labeling is required for food products containing more than 0.9 percent GMO content.

The Russian Federal Law "On the Protection of Consumers' Rights" was amended in December 2004 to require that consumers be informed about the presence of genetically engineered ingredients in food products. However, the threshold was not defined and a debate ensued on whether the level should remain at five percent or be decreased to zero. Onishchenko's letter sets this level at 0.9 percent. Although the letter of the Head of the Federal Service does not have the force of a federal law, it provides official instructions to employees (the inspectors) of the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being on how to implement the Federal Law on Protection of Consumers Rights.

Text of the Letter "ON LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOs"

Unofficial translation

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FEDERAL SERVICE FOR SURVEILLANCE IN THE SPHERE OF CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION
AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

LETTER

January 24, 2006, # 0100/446-06-32

ON LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOs

Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being, with regard to numerous addresses devoted to labeling of food derived from genetically modified organisms (GMO), hereby informs as follows:

In accordance with item 2, Article 10 of the Law of 07.02.1992, # 2300-1 "On the Protection of Consumer Rights" (amended by Federal law of 21.12.2004, # 171-FZ), information on goods must contain data on major consumer properties including "...the presence of components derived from genetically modified organisms".

In view of the above we clarify the following:

- in accordance with the Directive of the European Parliament and Council (EC) #1829/2003 of 22.09.2003 on GM food and feed, all food containing more than 0.9% of GMO components is subject to labeling;
- in accordance with the conclusion of the Institute of Nutrition of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, 0.9 percent or less of GMO components in food products is considered an adventitious or technically unavoidable amount. Such food products are not considered as food products containing GMO components, and are not subject to labeling.

I request that all activities in surveillance over food raw materials and food products are conducted based on the instructions of this letter.

Head,
Federal Service for Surveillance
in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection
and Human Well-being

G.G. Onishchenko