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Russian Federation

Biotechnology

New Resolution Transfers GMO Feed Registration Duties to VPSS

2006

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Report Highlights:

The Russian government issued Resolution 422 on July 14, 2006. It amends Resolution 26 of January 2002 entitled "On State Registration of Feeds Produced from Genetically Modified Organisms" and passes GMO feed testing and registration duties to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS).

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

Summary

Russian Federation Government (GOR) Resolution 422 of July 14, 2006 amends the January 2002 Resolution (26) entitled "On State Registration of Feeds Produced from Genetically Modified Organisms" and transfers testing and registration of GMO feeds from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS).

Overview of Changes

Following a reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture in 2004 (GAIN Report RS6038 *Annual Agricultural Biotechnology Report*), all testing and registration of GMO feeds was discontinued because the main regulation document (GOR Resolution 26) was not amended. While resolution 422 assigns testing and registration duties to VPSS, other amendments are also important. Subparagraph "c" in point 4 is excluded, implying that a "copy of the certificate (certifying the safety of modified organisms used in feed production in case they preserve the ability to reproduce)" is no longer required for the registration of GMO feeds. The Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology, which no longer exists, issued these safety certificates. An amendment to sub-point "d" of point 5 ("determine state registration of a feed produced from modified organisms") omits the words "and enter the appropriate data into the State Register". This may imply that a registration certificate can be issued more quickly and that it may not be necessary to wait until the registration number is entered into State Register before production can begin. The new resolution releases VPSS from its obligation of sharing the establishment of the Expert Council for Biological Safety with the Inter-Agency Commission on Genetic Engineering, as outlined in Resolution 26. The name of the Expert Council is changed from the "Expert Council for Safety Matters" to the "Expert Council for Biological Safety Matters". This implies that all issues regarding the biological safety of plants fall under the Expert Council, which is created by the head of VPSS. The role of the Ministry of Agriculture will be limited to keeping the State Register of GMO feeds.

The issuance of Resolution 422 has finally re-opened GMO feed registration procedures, although actual registration will begin after the Expert Council is formed and its duties are determined, which could take a long time. In addition, examinations and testing of submitted feeds may take longer and may be more expensive than before. In a recent letter (number 181 of June 22, 2006), the Ministry of Agriculture prescribed the use of the expensive "biological microchip" GMO plant identification method (GAIN Report RS6038).

Russian Federation Government Resolution 422 (Unofficial translation)

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation
"On Amendments to Resolution Number 26 of the Russian Federation Government dated
January 18, 2002"
Number 422, July 14, 2006

The Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

To approve the attached changes made to Resolution 26 of the Russian Federation Government dated January 18, 2002 entitled "On State Registration of Feeds Produced from Genetically Modified Organisms" (Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2002, 4, Art. 323).

Prime Minister
of the Russian Federation

M. Fradkov

APPROVED
by Resolution of the Government
of the Russian Federation
dated July 14, 2006 Number 422

1. Point 3 shall be rendered invalid.
 2. In the provision regarding state registration of feeds produced from genetically modified organisms approved by the present resolution:
 - a. Point 3 shall have the following wording: "The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service shall handle state registration of feeds produced from genetically modified organisms and issue state registration certificates."
 - b. In point 4:
 - i. in the first paragraph, the words "Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" shall be replaced with the words "Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance"
 - ii. subparagraph "c" shall be rendered invalid
 - c. Points 5 and 6 shall have the following wording:

"5. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance shall:

 - a) receive, register, and review applications for state registration of feeds produced from modified organisms
 - b) verify the information submitted by the applicant
 - c) study the information provided in regard to the safety of feeds produced from modified organisms and subject to state registration criteria
 - d) Decide whether or not to award state registration for feeds produced from modified organisms and issue the applicant a registration certificate for such feed that will entitle it to be imported into and produced in the Russian Federation

6. In an effort to ensure objectivity and proper quality information control regarding the safety of GMO feeds submitted by the applicant, VPSS shall establish the permanent Expert Council for Biological Safety Matters (Expert Council), with its members to be approved by the head of VPSS."
 - d. In point 7, the words "Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" shall be replaced with the words " Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance"
 - e. In point 8:
 - i. in the first paragraph, the words "Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" shall be replaced with the words " Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance" and the words "accredited by the Ministry" shall be removed
 - ii. in the third paragraph, the words "Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" shall be replaced with the words " Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance"
 - f. In point 9:
 - i. in the first paragraph, the words "Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" shall be replaced with the words " Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance "
 - ii. subparagraph "?" shall have the following wording: "Within 7 days of receipt, VPSS shall issue the applicant a certificate of state registration for feeds produced from modified organisms signed by the head of VPSS and attested with a stamp. VPSS shall assign the applicant a registration number. Information regarding the GMO feed shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation to be entered in the register."
 - g. in points 12 – 15, the words "Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" shall be replaced with the words " Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance" in the proper case
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Moscow
July 18, 2006
N 1264