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## Korea, Republic of

## Biotechnology

## LLRice Testing Requirements for Imports of U.S. Rice

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**Report Highlights:**

The Korean government requires shipments of U.S. rice to be tested multiple times to confirm the absence of LLRice.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Seoul [KS1]  
[KS]

After the discovery of trace amounts of LLRice 601 in the U.S. rice supply in August 2006, the Korean government instituted multiple testing requirements to verify the absence of all LLRice events in shipments of U.S. rice. All varieties of LLRice are unapproved for human consumption in Korea and are therefore prohibited Korean Food Sanitation Act. In particular, Korea's Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF) requires two separate tests prior to loading, while the Korean Food & Drug Administration (KFDA) requires a third test upon arrival.

Generally, KFDA is the only government agency that requires GM testing for imports of unapproved food crops. However, in the case of LLRice, MAF has instituted separate testing requirements to verify the absence of the LLRice event in government purchases of U.S. table and processing rice.

**MAF Testing Requirements:**

The Korea Agro-Fisheries Trade Corp. (aT) purchases all imported rice. This quasi-governmental organization, which is under the direction of MAF, purchases and sells imports of U.S. rice to local retailers and processors. Given the Korean government's role in these purchases, MAF requires two tests prior to loading.

A laboratory participating in the USDA/GIPSA's Liberty Link Rice Proficiency Program will conduct the first test. More information on this program can be found at [www.gipsa.usda.gov](http://www.gipsa.usda.gov). MAF has chosen the Overseas Merchandise Inspection Company (OMIC) to conduct the second test. Both laboratories conduct their respective tests using the Bayer CropScience (BCS) 35S-Bar PCR method.

**KFDA Testing Requirements:**

KFDA requires all incoming shipments of U.S. rice to be tested a third time upon arrival. KFDA collects a single composite 6,000-kernel sample from a representative number of containers under a single bill of lading. The sample is tested using the BCS 35S-Bar PCR test method. This sample size is double the BCS recommended sample size. If the test is positive, the entire shipment will be rejected.

Recently, it was revealed that the National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS) of MAF is conducting monitoring testing after the shipment passes KFDA inspection. NAQS collects the recommended sample size and tests using the BCS 35S-Bar PCR test method.

**Test Results:**

All shipments under the 2006 MMA are subject to the above-mentioned test requirements. As of May 31, nearly 30,000 MT of U.S. rice has already been tested and cleared. An additional 35,000 MT will be tested in June and July of this year.