

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 25,2020

**Report Number:** CA2020-0083

**Report Name:** Health Canada Announces Notices of Intent for Novel Food Regulations

**Country:** Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Category:** Biotechnology - Plants and Animals, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products, Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

Plants in Canada are regulated on the basis of the traits expressed and not on the basis of the method used to introduce the traits. In August 2020, the federal government issued two statements outlining actions it will take to improve the clarity around these regulations.

## Notices of Intent Regarding Novel Food Regulations

In August 2020, Health Canada issued two notices on biotechnology regulations, both with the intent to improve guidance on how new and novel food is regulated in Canada.

The [“Notice of Intent: To develop and publish new guidance for the novel food regulations, focussed on plant breeding”](#) offers new guidance to add clarity and predictability to regulations and oversight of novel products of plant breeding. Health Canada will publish the draft guidance online for a 60-day consultation period in January 2021 and indicates they will engage experts from industry, academia, and other sectors to provide scientific information and advice to inform the development of the guidance.

The [“Notice of Intent: Publication of the list of non-novel food products and ingredients”](#) announces Health Canada’s intention to publish on its website a list of non-novel food and ingredient determinations to improve transparency of Health Canada’s decisions. Health Canada will begin publishing a list of non-novel determinations for foods and ingredients on September 30, 2020, using a phased approach. On September 30, the majority of past determinations, beginning from 2012, will be published on the list. The list of non-novel food products and ingredients will contain the following information: the date, the name of the product, a plain language description of the product, and Health Canada’s rationale.

The two notices come in response to suggestions from the [Economic Strategy Tables](#) (September 2018), the Advisory Council on Economic Growth and other industry associations. Some of these suggestions are acknowledged in the Government of Canada’s [Fall Economic Statement 2018](#). The report states that the government will take immediate action to, “Improve guidance on how new and novel plant varieties are regulated in Canada in order to provide clarity to Canadian and foreign firms interested in investing in Canada's biotechnology sector.”

### Attachments:

No Attachments.