

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** February 16, 2021

**Report Number:** JA2021-0023

**Report Name:** MAFF Invites Comments for Amendment to Feed Safety Handling Procedures for Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Biotechnology - Plants and Animals

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**Report Highlights:**

On February 4, 2021, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) opened a public comment period for a proposed amendment to the handling of crossbred progeny in the Feed Safety Handling Procedures for Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives. If adopted, MAFF would not require developers of products derived from the crossbreeding of genome edited varieties previously notified to MAFF to complete MAFF's consultation process for genome edited products or notify the final product to MAFF. The comment period will close on March 5, 2021 and comments must be in Japanese.

## General Information

In February 2020, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) released the final "Feed Safety Guidelines on the Handling of Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives" (hereinafter referred to as "Guidelines", see [JA2020-0060](#)). The Guidelines describe how developers of genome edited feed and feed additives should inform MAFF of their product prior to commercialization in Japan. In January 2021, the MAFF Agricultural Materials Council's Genetically Modified Feed Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as "Subcommittee") reviewed the content of the Guidelines and agreed that the notification requirement for crossbred progeny products should no longer be necessary.

The proposed amendment of the Guidelines is as below:

*Starts*

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### Current language

#### 6. Handling of Crossbred Progeny

MAFF shall request notification for crossbred progeny products derived from genome edited plants bred through conventional breeding techniques with conventional varieties\* if they fall into any of the three categories below:

1. Properties that are newly acquired through genome editing techniques change in the crossbred progeny cultivars,
2. Progeny is a result of crossbreeding between subspecies; and/or
3. There is a change in the amount of ingestion, edible part of the plant, or processing method, etc.

\* In addition to conventional cultivars, it includes, but not limited to, products notified to MAFF as genome edited, genetically engineered products granted with safety approval, etc.

### Proposed amendment

#### 6. Handling of Crossbred Progeny

No prior consultation or notification shall be required for crossbred progeny, which are crosses of conventional varieties, etc.\* using traditional breeding methods, with varieties that have been notified as genome edited feed.

\* In addition to conventional cultivars, it includes, but not limited to, products notified to MAFF as genome edited, genetically engineered products granted with safety approval, etc.

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*Ends.*

## Public Comment Period

Following the decision of Subcommittee, MAFF's Animal Product Safety Division opened a 30-day public comment period for the amendment of the Guideline. Comments must be in Japanese and should contain the following information:

- Name (personal or corporate names)
- Address
- Contact information (telephone number and/or email address)

MAFF may use this information to confirm the details and/or meaning of comments. MAFF also may share this information with other MAFF divisions and/or other Japanese Government ministries depending on the contents of the comments. Also, please note that the filed comments may be released to the public with the name of the commenter. Comments can be sent via one of three methods indicated below by March 5, 2021 in Japan Standard Time.

### 1. Japanese Government's "e-Gov" system

Comments can be sent electronically via the "e-Gov" system which enables electronic submission of comments on regulatory proposals by the Japanese Government. The site for commenting on the proposed regulatory policy for the handling of food products derived from genome editing technology can be found at: <https://public-comment.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=550003263&Mode=0>

### 2. Mail

Comments can be mailed to the address below:

Genetically Engineered Feed Group  
Animal Products Safety Division  
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8950 Japan

### 3. Facsimile

Comments can be sent via fax to the number indicated below:

03- 3502-8275 (from outside Japan, +81-3- 3502-8275)  
Genetically Engineered Feed Group  
Animal Products Safety Division  
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The original documents, in Japanese, can be found at: <https://public-comment.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=550003263&Mode=0>

## Attachments:

No Attachments.