

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Ministry of Agriculture Changes Import License Requirement to Facilitate Corn and Soybean Imports

Country: Brazil

Post: Brasilia

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, Oilseeds and Products, Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Brazil's Agriculture Ministry (MAPA) issued a normative instruction meant to facilitate imports of genetically modified (GMO) corn and soybeans from the United States. This Normative Instruction changes the information that must appear on an import license (IL) for products intended to be used in animal feed or for veterinary use. However, there is no evidence to suggest that this normative instruction establishes approval for GMO corn and soybean varieties that have not been approved by the National Technical Biosafety Commission. As such, asynchrony in biotech approvals may still present a hurdle to U.S. corn and soybean exports to Brazil.

On November 3, Brazil's Agriculture Ministry (MAPA) issued [normative instruction No. 60, 2020](#) meant to facilitate imports of genetically modified (GMO) corn and soybean from the United States. This Normative Instruction revokes the provision of MAPA Normative Instruction No. 29, 2010 (Article 6, paragraph 4), which outlines the information that must appear on an import license (IL) for products intended to be used in animal feed or for veterinary use.

MAPA Normative Instruction No. 29, 2010 (Article 6, paragraph 4)
(unofficial translation)

Art. 6 In the "PRODUCT SPECIFICATION" field of the IL (Import License) in SISCOMEX, the importer or his legal representative must note the imported product's origin, the name of the product, the registration/license number of the product; note the registration number in the case that the product is exempted from registration, or note that the product is exempted from registration according to specific legislation.

§ 4. If the product contains GMOs or derivatives, the importer must note the common name, the scientific name, and, when available, the commercial name and the event of genetic transformation of the GMO or, when available, the unique identifier of the product.

Media reported on November 6, that according to a statement received from MAPA, the November 3 normative instruction conferred legal security to imports of grains (soybeans and corn) from the United States “by recognizing the equivalence of genetically modified events approved in the United States and in Brazil.” Notably, the MAPA instruction only outlines changes to the filing of the IL.

In Brazil, approval of specific biotech events rests with the National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio). CTNBio operates under the Ministry of Science and Technology and is composed of 27 members including official representatives from 9 ministries of the federal government, 12 specialists with scientific and technical knowledge from 4 different areas including animal, plant, environment, and health (3 specialists from each area), and 6 other specialists from other areas such as consumer defense and family farming. New events and other technical issues are debated and approved by a simple majority in the Commission. MAPA is a member of the CTNBio, but it does not have authority by itself to declare equivalence between the United States and Brazil on GMO products. (For more information see the [2019 Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report](#).)

As it stands, MAPA’s normative instruction from November 3, 2020 changes what information importers must provide on the import license. However, the normative instruction does not establish approval for GMO corn and soybean varieties that have not been approved by CTNBio. As such, asynchrony in biotech approvals may still present a hurdle to U.S. corn and soybean exports to Brazil. (For more information see the October 19, 2020 report [Brazil Eliminates Soybean and Corn Duties](#).)

Attachments:

No Attachments.