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### **GMO labeling resolution issued in Colombia**

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology

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**Report Highlights:**

Colombia published its biotechnology labeling guidelines on September 22, 2011 being the first Andean country to release such specific direction. The resolution establishes a regulatory framework on labeling, while not appearing to restrict trade.

**General Information:**

On September 22, 2011, the Colombian Ministry of Social Protection issued resolution 4254 establishing the requirements for labeling foods derived from modern biotechnology. The resolution enters into force nine months after its publication in the official journal on September 26, 2011. Both academia and industry seem satisfied with the outcome of the resolution and see it as a model for other Andean countries. However, there are still some concerns regarding technical guidelines for the application of this resolution which is now in a comment period for public consultation and review.

Regarding labeling for imports of commodities, the resolution states that importers of raw materials that are GMOs (genetically modified organisms), or may contain GMOs, shall declare in the commercial invoice that each shipment contains GMOs intended for direct use as food for humans or for further processing, only in those cases where the identity of GMOs is known. In cases where the identity of GMOs is not known, it should be identified as "may contain one or more GMOs" for direct use as food for humans or for further processing. In cases GMOs are not authorized in Colombia for release into the environment, the shipment should state that "it may contain GMOs" and it is not intended for intentional environmental release. Surveillance in ports and border crossings will be conducted by INVIMA, Colombian Food and Surveillance Institute, equivalent to FDA, as well as territorial health directors.