



15 April 2024

(24-3123)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

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| 1. Notifying Member: <u>UNITED KINGDOM</u> If applicable, name of local government involved: |
| 2. Agency responsible: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| 3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Precision bred plants, food, and feed |
| 4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries: |
| 5. Title of the notified document: Draft copy of The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) (England) Regulations 2024. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 31 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2024/SPS/GBR/24_02613_00_e.pdf |
| 6. Description of content: The notified regulation brings into force parts of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 to establish a regulatory framework for organisms produced through precision breeding technologies, like gene editing, where the genetic changes could have arisen through traditional breeding, to ensure plant, animal and human health and welfare is safeguarded. This will mean significantly reduced requirements compared to genetically modified organism (GMO) legislation. This comprises of two domestic notification processes for the deliberate release and marketing of Precision Bred Organisms (PBOs) into the environment and an authorisation process for the food and feed derived from PBOs. The draft regulations establish information requirements and a tiered approach for authorising PBOs. They also establish the requirement for public registers and enforcement provisions, comparatively less burdensome than currently under GMO legislation. Under these new regulations, PBOs will no longer be regulated as GMOs in England. Instead, qualifying plants, food and feed produced through precision breeding technologies will be subject to a new proportionate, science-based authorisation process. This process will maintain appropriate protections on plant, animal and human health, the environment and consumer information while reducing trade barriers and facilitating trade. This new regulatory framework will ensure that levels of known toxins and allergens remain within acceptable levels for the protection of human and animal health. We are notifying other elements of these measures under the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement. |
| 7. Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. |

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| <p>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p> |
| <p>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk) - Impact Assessment - Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill (parliament.uk) <p>(available in English)</p> |
| <p>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): October 2024</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 10 July 2024</p> |
| <p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): April 2025</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p> |
| <p>12. Final date for comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 14 June 2024</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>UK WTO SPS National Notification Authority and Enquiry Point Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Seacole Building 2 Marsham St London SW1P 4DF E-mail: uksps@defra.gov.uk Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs</p> |
| <p>13. Text(s) available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>UK WTO SPS National Notification Authority and Enquiry Point Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Seacole Building 2 Marsham St London SW1P 4DF E-mail: uksps@defra.gov.uk Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs</p> |