Evira Guide 17071/4 uk

Evira

Control guideline for genetically modified food

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These guidelines are intended for food control authorities and operators in the food sector. Public authority action shall be based on legislative competence conferred to the authority and be consistent with legislation. Since the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira has not been conferred legislative competence in the matter concerned, these guidelines are not, by their legal nature, binding on other authorities or operators. These guidelines contain both direct quotations from legislation and the views of the authority in charge of food control, Evira, on how the legislative regulations pertaining to food should be applied. Issues pertaining to the application of legislative regulations are in the last instance settled by a court of law.

1 INTRODUCTION

Genetically modified organism (gmo) means a living organism that is capable of reproduction, such as a plant, microbe or seed, whose genome has been altered by means of genetic engineering. The purpose of such alteration is, for example, to improve the yield security or nutritional value of a particular crop. **Genetically modified foods** mean foods that are or contain genetically modified organisms, or are composed or prepared from such organisms (e.g. frozen maize prepared from genetically modified maize, taco shells prepared from genetically modified maize flour, or tofu that contains genetically modified soya protein).

Genetically modified food is safe. Genetically modified organisms or food may not be placed on the market unless they have been authorised in the EU. The authorisation procedure is based on a risk assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and only products that have been confirmed as being safe for humans, animals and the environment can be authorised for the EU market.

If the food is genetically modified, this must be indicated on the labelling. The consumer must be informed of any genetically modified material used in the manufacturing of a foodstuff. The words ‘genetically modified’ or ‘produced from genetically modified soya beans’, for example, must appear in the list of ingredients on the food packaging immediately following the genetically modified ingredient or the ingredients produced from a genetically modified organism.

The **control of genetically modified food** is part of the regular food control that is based on the operator’s in-house control. The operator is responsible for the compliance of its products and also takes genetically modified organisms into account in its in-house control. The practical side of food control is carried out, as instructed by Evira, by municipal food control authorities, Evira’s inspection veterinarians and border and organic production control. Genetically modified food is also controlled by the Finnish Customs, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health Valvira and the Finnish Defence Forces. The regulatory control of genetically modified food is primarily based on documentary control. Documentary control may also be supplemented by the analysis of control samples.

Evira is not aware of any foods currently (February 2018) placed on the market in Finland that would contain genetically modified products authorised in the EU, considering the threshold of 0.9 % set out for adventitious presence. A few foodstuffs that contained genetically modified ingredients authorised in the EU without this having been indicated in the labelling have been encountered in surveillance studies. Ac-

cording to the information received from the Customs, genetically modified varieties that have not been authorised in the EU (e.g. rice and papaya) have also been encountered in imported foodstuffs. However, the presence of non-conformances has been minor, and the errors encountered in respect of the labelling requirements have been single isolated cases.

Further information about genetically modified products is available on the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/shared-topics/genetically-modified-products/ and about genetically modified foods at https://www.evira.fi/en/foodstuff/manufacture-and-sales/common-requirements-for-composition/genetically-modified-food-gmo/.

2 LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

- Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02003R1829-20080410&qid=1486045084245&from=EN
- Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02003R1830-20081211&qid=1486045142563&from=EN
- Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (the 'General Food Law Regulation') http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02002R0178-20140630&qid=1486045241539&from=EN
- 2011/884/EU: Commission Implementing Decision on emergency measures regarding unauthorised genetically modified rice in rice products originating from China http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02011D0884-20130704&qid=1486045554772&from=EN
- 2013/287/EU: Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2011/884/EU on emergency measures regarding unauthorised genetically modified rice in rice products originating from China http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013D0287&qid=1486045629015&from=EN
- Food Act 23/2006 http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2006/20060023 (in Finnish and Swedish)
- Government Decree 910/2004 on the national arrangements for implementing Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2004/20040910, as amended by Government Decree 135/2008 http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2008/20080135 and Government Decree 846/2017 http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2017/20170846 (in Finnish and Swedish)
- Evira Guideline 10235/2: Oiva assessment guidelines for notified and approved food establishments, 11.3 Genetically modified ingredients https://www.oivahymy.fi/ (in Finnish and Swedish)

- Evira Guideline 17071/4: Guideline for controlling genetically modified foods
- Evira Guideline 17023/5: Sampling instructions for foods analysed for potential genetically modified ingredients and a sampling form (646853)
- Evira Guideline 10019/2: Guideline on withdrawal of unauthorised genetically modified food and feed
- Evira Guideline 10017/3: Use of the voluntary “gmo free” marketing claim on food and feed.

All Evira Guidelines pertaining to genetically modified products can be found from the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/about-evira/forms-and-instructions/genetically-modified-products/.

3 REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

3.1 Authorisation procedure

Under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, a genetically modified organism for food use or food may not be cultivated or placed on the market in the EU unless it is covered by an authorisation in the EU. Starting from 1996, a number of genetically modified foods and feeds (maize, soya, rape, cotton, sugar beet) have been authorised in the EU. Only one genetically modified maize variety has been authorised for cultivation in the EU (as at March 2018).

Under Government Decree 910/2004, Evira serves as the national contact point for applications concerning genetically modified products. Evira is responsible for forwarding documents such as authorisation applications, requests for statement and statements related to applications filed in Finland between the authorisation applicant, EFSA and the competent authorities. Evira is also responsible for ensuring that EFSA’s statements on the applications are available to the public. The public has the opportunity to file a comment on EFSA’s statement in their native language for 30 days.

Further information about the authorisation of genetically modified foods and a table listing the genetically modified foods and feeds authorised in the EU, among other things, is available on the Evira website at: https://www.evira.fi/yhteiset/muuntogeeniset-tuotteet/tuotteiden-hyvaksynta/ (in Finnish and Swedish).

3.2 Labelling

Under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, consumers shall be provided with information about the genetically modified organisms used in the production of the foodstuff concerned or the ingredients produced from them. Genetically modified foods shall be labelled according to the following principles:

- The labelling of products consisting of, containing or produced from genetically modified organisms shall contain the text: “The product contains genetically modi-

fied organisms" or "The product contains genetically modified [name of organism]".

- Where the food consists of more than one ingredient, the words "genetically modified" or "produced from genetically modified [name of the ingredient]" shall appear in the list of ingredients immediately following the ingredient concerned.

- Where the ingredient is designated by the name of a category (e.g. "spice mixture"), the words "contains genetically modified [name of organism]" or "contains [name of ingredient] produced from genetically modified [name of organism]" shall appear in the list of ingredients.

- Where there is no list of ingredients, the words "genetically modified" or "produced from genetically modified [name of organism]" shall appear clearly on the labelling.

The indications referred to above may also appear in a footnote to the list of ingredients. In this case they shall be printed in a font of at least the same size as the list of ingredients.

Where the food is offered for sale as non-pre-packaged food, or as pre-packaged food in small containers of which the largest surface has an area of less than 10 cm^2, the information must be permanently and visibly displayed either on the food display or immediately next to it, or on the packaging material, in a font sufficiently large for it to be easily identified and read.

The labelling requirements **do not apply** to food containing material which contains, consists of or is produced from genetically modified organisms in a proportion no higher than 0.9 % of the food ingredients considered individually or food consisting of a single ingredient However, this presence shall always be **adventitious** or **technically unavoidable**. To establish this, the operator must be in a position to demonstrate to the authorities that it has taken appropriate steps to avoid the presence of such material.

The Regulation **does not apply** to food produced with genetically modified organisms. The determining criterion is whether or not material derived from the genetically modified source material is present in the finished food. Consequently, the labelling requirement does not apply to processing aids or fermentation products produced with genetically modified microbes, such as additives, flavours or vitamins, if no genetically modified microbe is present in the final product. Nor are products obtained from animals fed with genetically modified feed or treated with genetically modified medicinal products subject to the authorisation or labelling requirements referred to in the Regulation ((EC) No 1829/2003, introductory sentence 16).

3.3 "GMO free" marketing claim

Genetically modified foods are subject to a mandatory labelling obligation (see section 3.2). The consumer can be confident that if there is no indication of genetic modification in the labelling, the foodstuff is not genetically modified. However, regulations

do not prohibit the use of voluntary marketing claims stating that gene technology has not been utilised in the production of the food concerned, or that the product does not contain any genetically modified ingredients. However, the labelling shall always be clear and unambiguous, and it may not mislead the consumer.

At present, the EU has not specified any common principles for marketing claims such as “gmo free”, “gmo free production”, and the like. For food operators and control authorities, the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira has drawn up a guideline for the use of the voluntary “gmo free” marketing claim on food and feed products (https://www.evira.fi/en/about-evira/forms-and-instructions/genetically-modified-products/). According to the guideline:

- The “gmo free” or other similar marketing claim may only be used on **food products that may contain genetically modified ingredients authorised in the EU** (e.g. soya, maize or rapeseed) if the food product concerned does not contain any genetically modified ingredients (the gm ingredient level is 0 % = detection limit, not the limit of 0.9 % = threshold value under the current regulations). Even a minute level of any gm ingredient in the product will be considered misleading within the meaning of section 9 of the Food Act 23/2006. Only properties in respect of which the product concerned differs from other similar products may be attributed to a food product.

- The “gm free” or other similar marketing claim is not permitted at all on **food products that contain ingredients of which no genetically modified varieties authorised in the EU exists** (e.g. rice, oats, papaya, carrot or blueberry), because such a claim would be misleading.

- The voluntary “produced without gene technology”, “gmo free” or other similar marketing claim may only be used on **foodstuffs of animal origin** (e.g. meat, milk, egg or farmed fish) when the animal concerned has been fed with regular feed throughout its life cycle, meaning that the adventitious or accidental presence of gm material in the feed remains below 0.9 %.

3.4 Traceability

Under Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003, any genetically modified products and material placed on the market shall be traceable. In this connection, “traceability” means the ability to trace genetically modified organisms and products produced from genetically modified organisms at all stages of their placing on the market through the production and distribution chains from one operator to another. This makes it easier, among other things, to implement the appropriate risk management measures, such as the withdrawal of products where necessary.

At all stages of the placing on the market of a genetically modified product, operators shall ensure that the following information is transmitted in writing to the operator receiving the product:

- that it contains or consists of a genetically modified organism;
- the unique identifier assigned to that genetically modified organism at the first stage of the placing on the market, for example maize Bt11 (SYN-BT11-1).

Documents pertaining to genetically modified products are subject to holding obligation of 5 years from each transaction. The operator shall have in place systems and standardised procedures to allow the holding and management of such documents and the identification of the operator by whom the product was received (supplier traceability) and the operator to whom the product was delivered (customer traceability).

4 OPERATOR'S LIABILITY AND IN-HOUSE CONTROL

The food business operator – for example, the importer or the manufacturer – is responsible for the compliance of its products and is also required to take genetically modified organisms into account in its in-house control. In its in-house control, the operator shall identify and assess the requirements related to foods that may potentially be genetically modified. The operator shall also be able to prove with reference to relevant documents (e.g. appropriate procurement contracts and/or analysis certificates) that the critical points are under control.

In particular, the operator shall take genetically modified material into account in its in-house control if the operator:

- manufactures, contracts to manufacture, packages, imports (from the internal market and/or third countries) or forwards foods that **are** or **contain** genetically modified organisms or ingredients manufactured from them;
- manufactures, contracts to manufacture, packages, imports (from the internal market and/or third countries) or forwards foods that **with high probability may be or contain** genetically modified organisms or ingredients manufactured from them (the so-called 'high-risk foods' or foods containing plants that are frequently cultivated across the world as genetically modified varieties, examples of which include soya or maize originating from the United States, rapeseed originating from Canada, rice originating from China, or papaya originating from Thailand or the United States);
- uses in its products the voluntary "gmo free" or other similar marketing claim.

In this case, the operator shall ensure and be capable of substantiating the following, among other things:

- The operator shall ensure that the raw materials that may potentially include genetically modified material are consistent with what was ordered i.e. are or are not genetically modified.
- The operator shall be able to prove with reference to relevant documents and/or analyses (as part of the operator's in-house control or on behalf of the supplier of the food/ingredient) that the foods only contain genetically modified organisms **authorised** for food use in the EU.
  - The use of genetically modified organisms that have not been authorised in the EU is prohibited.
- The **labelling** is in compliance with the applicable legislation.

- If a food is genetically modified or a food ingredient contains genetically modified material in excess of 0.9 %, this shall be indicated in the list of ingredients or elsewhere on the labelling.

- The statutory **traceability requirements** pertaining to genetically modified organisms and foods are met (e.g. an indication of the presence of genetically modified material and a unique identifier; 5-year archival requirement for documents).
- The voluntary **"gmo free" or other similar marketing claims** used in the products do not mislead the consumer.

The in-house control plan shall indicate how the consistency of the raw material or product with what was ordered is ensured. The manufacturer shall be aware and certain whether or not the raw materials used (soya, maize, rapeseed, rice or papaya) or the products manufactured of them are genetically modified and whether the varieties concerned have been authorised in the EU. This shall be primarily ensured by means of, for example, a batch-specific contract, warranty or analysis certificate obtained from the supplier.

Operators who import prepacked foodstuffs which, for example, contain genetically modified soya (e.g. bars intended for athletes) and on which the gm labelling is missing should pay special attention to the accuracy of documents, because the gmo legislation in the United Stated, for example, does not require the labelling of genetically modified foodstuffs.

The law requires that genetically modified organisms or products are at all stages of the placing on the market throughout the production and distribution chain accompanied by an indication that the product contains or consists of genetically modified organisms or ingredients. The operator shall be able to submit such documents to the controller where necessary or when requested to do so. The essential thing is that the information can be unambiguously linked to the batch to be delivered. If any genetically modified ingredient is used in the manufacturing of a product, this shall be indicated in the labelling of a product sold to consumers or institutional kitchens.

Operators who use the "gmo free" or other similar marketing claim on their food of vegetable origin shall verify by means of analyses that the gm ingredient level in the product is 0 % (= the detection limit). A representative sample shall be analysed in an accredited laboratory using a validated method. The operator shall be able to provide batch-specific analysis results if requested to do so by the authority. Operators who use the "gmo free" or other similar marketing claims on food products obtained from animals shall ensure that written agreements covering the entire chain are in place. Additionally, the operator shall verify that the ingredients of the product can be traced over the entire chain.

The operator shall also observe that special import requirements have been imposed on rice products imported from China.

If the operator's intention is to avoid the use of any genetically modified material in production, the operator shall consider, on a case-by-case basis, in respect of products that may potentially contain genetically modified ingredients, as to from which products and how often in-house control samples need to be taken. The need for taking in-house control samples arises if, for example, the operator has some reason to

doubt the compliance of the product (for example, based on RASFF notifications or information otherwise obtained). If the operator has previously used genetically modified raw materials or products in its operations and switches to a batch that is not genetically modified, the operator shall ensure by means of analyses that the lines and facilities have been properly cleaned between the batches of any genetically modified material.

If the operator notices or is made aware that a product the operator manufactures, contracts to manufacture, imports, packages or sells does not satisfy the regulatory requirements, the operator shall take the necessary actions. Examples of such shortcomings include:

- an analysis has indicated that the food concerned contains genetically modified material that has not been authorised in the EU;
- an indication of the presence or absence of genetically modified material in 'high-risk foods' is missing from procurement contracts and analysis certificates are missing;
- the genetically modified foods or ingredients used that are authorised in the EU are not indicated on the packaging;
- the operator is not able to provide traceability documents for the genetically modified organisms or foods;
- the "gmo free" or other similar marketing claim used by the operator misleads the consumer.

More detailed information about withdrawals and the operator's obligations can be found from the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/foodstuff/manufacture-and-sales/control/guidelines-on-withdrawal-of-products/. Evira has also drawn up a separate guideline on the withdrawal of unauthorised genetically modified food and feed https://www.evira.fi/en/about-evira/forms-and-instructions/genetically-modified-products/.

5 REGULATORY CONTROL

The control of genetically modified food is part of the regular food control that is based on the food business operator's in-house control and inspections. The purpose of regulatory control is to check that the operator has identified and assessed the requirements related to potential genetically modified foods and is able to prove with reference to relevant documents (e.g. appropriate procurement contracts, product specifications, analysis certificates and/or audits) that the critical points are under control. In the regulatory control of genetically modified foods, the emphasis is on documentary control. Documentary control may also be supplemented by the analysis of control samples.

The control authorities must keep current with the presence of genetically modified foods in Finland, because the topic is of interest from the point of view of consumers, the media and politicians, among others. Regulatory control seeks to contribute to securing the consumer's trust in the genuineness of products and the correctness of their labelling.

5.1 Municipal food control authorities and Evira's inspection veterinarians

Municipal food control authorities and Evira's inspection veterinarians control, as instructed by Evira, the effectiveness and due implementation of in-house control in their in respective fields in accordance with the Oiva system (Oiva assessment guidelines for notified and approved food establishments, 11.3 Genetically modified ingredients). Further information about the Oiva system and assessment guidelines for genetically modified ingredients are available on the Internet at https://www.oivahymy.fi/ (in Finnish and Swedish).

The regulatory control of genetically modified food is primarily based on documentary control, because gmo analyses are expensive and require specific analytics. In support of documentary control, the food control authorities may inspect the correctness of product labelling by means of spot checks and, where deemed necessary, determine by means of analyses whether or not the product contains any genetically modified ingredients. If the operator fails to commission the analyses deemed necessary in the in-house control plan, the authority shall take the samples and commission the analyses. Regulatory samples shall also be taken in the event that there is a reason to suspect the regulatory compliance of the raw material or product. It is also desirable that the authorities include surveys related to genetically modified foods in their food control plans. Evira's sampling instructions for foods analysed for potential genetically modified ingredients and a sampling form can be found from the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/about-evira/forms-and-instructions/genetically-modified-products/.

This Control Guideline supplements the Oiva Guideline and also contains sampling instructions (Annex 1) and a sampling form (Annex 2). The gm control data shall be stored and reported using the KUTI control data system.

5.2 Regional state administrative authorities

Regional state administrative authorities (regional state administrative agencies) control and advise municipal authorities and also take the control of genetically modified foods into account when performing their audits.

5.3 Evira

Evira is responsible, by means of guidance, training and communications, for ensuring that the national food control operates on a risk-informed basis in an effective and equitable manner. To this end, Evira has drawn up Oiva assessment guidelines for genetically modified foods, this control guideline complete with its annexes, sampling instructions, a withdrawal guideline and a guideline for the use of "gmo free" claims. The Oiva Guideline is available at https://www.oivahymy.fi/ (in Finnish and Swedish), and all Evira Guidelines pertaining to genetically modified products are available on the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/about-evira/forms-and-instructions/genetically-modified-products/. Where necessary, Evira also plans and coordinates nationwide sampling and control projects for which more extensive special expertise is required. Evira's organic production control is responsible for the control of genetically modified materials in accordance with the legislation concerning organic production.

5.4 Customs

As no genetically modified plants are cultivated in Finland, genetically modified foodstuffs are always imported products. The compliance of foodstuffs of non-animal origin imported from outside the borders of Europe and from EU Member States is controlled by the Finnish Customs in accordance with its own control plan. The Customs analyses 150–200 food samples mainly consisting of soya, maize, rice or papaya for genetically modified ingredients on an annual basis. More information about the control exercised by the Customs is available at http://tulli.fi/en/about-us.

6 SAMPLING AND ANALYSES

In certain situations, it is advisable that both the operator and the control authorities ensure regulatory compliance by means of analyses. In the sampling of genetically modified foods, the sampling instructions drawn up by Evira shall be complied with, and the data pertaining to the sampling shall be marked on the sampling form.

The sampling shall be targeted on a risk-informed basis at raw materials or finished foods that potentially contain gm material (e.g. **soya, maize, rapeseed, rice, papaya**). **Organic products** are also included within the scope of the control. Where possible, the samples should be taken from **manufacturing raw materials**. This makes it possible to control the products entering the market at the beginning of their production cycle.

Samples from **highly processed** products (such as maize starch, starch syrup, maltodextrin, soya lecithin, soya sauce or oils) are not worth taking, because the degree of processing of the product will limit the verification of DNA and the analyses will not succeed.

An additional challenge for analysis is posed by **genetically modified ingredients that have not been authorised in the EU** (e.g. rice or papaya), because the methods of analyses needed for verifying their presence are not readily available.

If products bearing the **“gmo free” or other similar marketing claim** (foodstuffs of non-animal origin) are found on the market, it is advisable to include them in the sampling plan.

Examples of possible sampling points include:

soya	tofu preparations, soya beverages and the products processed from it (e.g. snack products), sports products (in particular snack bars, protein powders or energy preparations originating from the United States), soya beans, flour, protein, concentrate and isolate (as such or in textured form), protein hydrolysate
maize	maize cob, grains (e.g. popcorn raw material), roasted grains/ready-made popcorn, flours, flakes, semolina, breakfast flakes (e.g. corn flakes), ready-made snacks (e.g.

	cheese puffs), ready-made tortillas
rapeseed	raw material for oil manufacture
flax	flax meal
rice	rice products originating from China in particular
papaya	papaya products originating from Thailand or the United States in particular

Soya protein is used very frequently in various kinds of foodstuffs, such as meat pies, Karelian pasties and other convenience foods (e.g. kebab meat, frankfurters, grill sausage, sliced ham or mixed condiments), and in frozen food. Soya and/or maize is also frequently used in bakery and pastry-cook products, in gluten-free products in particular. Vegetarian products are often soya-based as well.

7 MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO OMISSIONS AND OFFENCES

If the control authority notices that the measures taken by the operator to secure compliance with the Food Act and product-specific requirements are not sufficient or the operator breaches the food regulations currently in force, the control authority is required to take the necessary control measures as defined in the Food Act (23/2006). Depending on the case, measures may need to be taken either immediately in connection with the inspection visit, or at a later stage based on the analysis result obtained from the sample. Evira has drawn up a guideline on the use of administrative coercive measures in food control pursuant to the Food Act https://www.evira.fi/tietoa-evirasta/julkaisut/elintarvikkeet/oppaat/opas-elintarvikelainmukaisten-hallinnollisten-pakkokeinojen-kaytosta-elintarvikevalvonnassa/ (Evira Guideline 100011/2) (in Finnish and Swedish).

If an indication of the presence or absence of genetically modified material in 'high-risk foods' is missing from the operator's procurement contracts or analysis certificates are missing, the operator shall be urged to take corrective action. The same line of action shall be taken if the operator is not able to provide traceability documents for the genetically modified organisms or foods. Additionally, the operator shall be urged to make the in-house control of its purchases more effective.

On the other hand, if the finished product contains authorised genetically modified material in excess of the 0.9 % threshold value, but there is no indication of the presence of genetically modified material on the package labelling, the operator shall be urged to correct the labelling in any products held in stocks and to make its in-house control more effective. This would be a case of a labelling error that represents no danger to health, so there is no need to initiate withdrawal of the products from the market.

If the operator uses the "gmo free" or other similar marketing claim in its products, but is unable to substantiate it with an analysis certificate (foodstuffs of animal origin) or appropriate documents (foodstuffs of animal origin), the marketing claim may be regarded as being misleading and the operator shall be urged to remove the labelling.

The presence of unauthorised genetically modified ingredients in a foodstuff will invariably result in the withdrawal of the products from the market. A zero tolerance pol-

icy (= 0 %) is applied as far as the gm ingredient level is concerned. Evira's guideline on the withdrawal of unauthorised genetically modified food and feed is available on the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/about-evira/forms-and-instructions/genetically-modified-products/.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about genetically modified products (e.g. seeds, feeds, foods), the related legislation and control and the varieties authorised in the EU, among other things, is available on the Evira website at https://www.evira.fi/en/shared-topics/genetically-modified-products/ and https://www.evira.fi/en/foodstuff/manufacture-and-sales/common-requirements-for-composition/genetically-modified-food-gmo/ as well as on the website of the European Commission at http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo_en.

At Evira, Senior Inspector Sanna Viljakainen (tel. +358 (0)50 464 9354, e-mail: sanna.viljakainen@evira.fi) is responsible for steering the control of genetically modified foods.

ANNEXES

Annex 1	Evira Guideline 17023/5: Sampling instructions for foods analysed for potential genetically modified ingredients
Annex 2	Sampling form (646853)

Previous version 15 February 2017
Revisions over previous version:

- Version numbers of Guidelines updated
- Names changed based on new organization
- More specific principles defined for the targeting of sampling, allowing sampling of also gm products.
- Government Decree 846/2017 added

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