

Part II – PMEM Plan

Request for Authorization of genetically modified soybean cyst nematode resistant and herbicide tolerant

GMB151 soybean

**for food and feed uses, and import and processing,
in accordance with articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC)**

No 1829/2003

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Post-Market Environmental Monitoring plan for GMB151 soybean conforming with Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC

1 General

As required by Article 5(5)(b) and 17(5)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 the proposed Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) plan for GMB151 soybean has been developed according to the principles and objectives outlined in Annex VII of Directive 2001/18/EC and Decision 2002/811/EC establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC. The PMEM also takes into account the Scientific Opinion on guidance on the Post-Market Environmental Monitoring of genetically modified plants¹.

2 Interplay between environmental risk assessment and monitoring

The scope of this application is the authorization of GMB151 soybean for food and feed uses, import and processing in the European Union (EU) under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. The scope of the application does not include authorization for the cultivation of GMB151 soybean seed products in the EU.

An environmental risk assessment (e.r.a.) was carried out for GMB151 soybean according to the principles laid down in Annex II to Directive 2001/18/EC and Decision 2002/623/EC establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex II to Directive 2001/18/EC. The scientific evaluation of the characteristics of GMB151 soybean in the e.r.a. (Section 5 of Part II – Scientific information) has shown that the risk for potential adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment is negligible in the context of the intended uses of GMB151 soybean.

3 Case-specific GM plant monitoring

As discussed in Section 2, the scientific evaluation of the characteristics of GMB151 in the e.r.a. has shown that the risk for potential adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment is negligible in the context of the intended uses of GMB151 soybean. It is therefore considered that there is no need for case-specific monitoring.

4 General surveillance for unanticipated adverse effects

4.1 Approach

General surveillance is not based on a particular hypothesis and it should be used to identify the occurrence of unanticipated adverse effects of the viable Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) or its use for human and animal health or the environment that were not predicted in the e.r.a.

¹ EFSA Panel on GMO; Scientific Opinion on guidance on the Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) of genetically modified plants. EFSA Journal 2011;9(8):2316. [40 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2011.2316. Available online: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal

The scope of this application is the authorization of GMB151 soybean for food and feed uses, import and processing. The scope of the application does not include authorization for the cultivation of GMB151 soybean seed products.

Therefore, exposure to the environment will be limited to unintended release of GMB151 soybean, which could occur for example via substantial losses during loading/unloading of the viable commodity including GMB151 soybean destined for processing into animal feed or human food products. Exposure can be controlled by clean up measures and the application of current practices used for the control of any adventitious soybean plants, such as manual or mechanical removal and the application of herbicides (with the exception of HPPD inhibitors).

However, and in order to safeguard against any adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment that were not anticipated in the e.r.a., general surveillance on GMB151 soybean will be undertaken for the duration of the authorization. The general surveillance will take into consideration, and be proportionate to, the extent of imports of GMB151 soybean and use thereof in the Member States.

In order to increase the possibility of detecting any unanticipated adverse effects, a monitoring system will be used, which involves the authorization holder and operators handling and using viable GMB151 soybean. The operators will be provided with guidance to facilitate reporting of any unanticipated adverse effect from handling and use of viable GMB151 soybean.

A detailed description of the methodology proposed for general surveillance of GMB151 soybean is provided in Section 4.6.

4.2 Baselines

Since the intended use of GMB151 soybean is the same as that of any other commercial soybean, the procedures for the import, handling and processing of GMB151 soybean will be the same and have been considered in the development of the PMEM plan. The baseline and controls for general surveillance will rely on the historical knowledge and experience with non-GM soybean as comparable reference where necessary.

4.3 Time-period

General surveillance of GMB151 soybean will be undertaken for the duration of the authorization period for GMB151 soybean for import and processing.

4.4 Assigning responsibilities

The authorization holder is responsible for ensuring that the PMEM plan is put in place and properly implemented in accordance with the conditions of the authorization.

The authorization holder shall be in the position to give evidence to the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States:

- That the monitoring networks as specified in the monitoring plan collect the information relevant for the monitoring of GMB151 soybean.

- That the members of these networks have agreed to make available that information to the authorization holder before the date of the submission of the monitoring report.

The third parties involved in the general surveillance will report any potential unanticipated adverse effects to the authorization holder, who will immediately investigate and inform the European Commission in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, as described in Section 5.

4.5 Existing systems

Primary sources of information

The authorization holder is not involved in commodity trade with GMB151 soybean. The monitoring methodology hence needs to be predominantly based on collaboration with third parties, such as operators involved in the import, handling and processing of viable GMB151 soybean. They are exposed to the imported viable GMB151 soybean and therefore are the best placed to observe and report any unanticipated adverse effects in the framework of their routine surveillance of the commodities they handle and use. The routine surveillance is based on the HACCP principles as reflected on the website of the trade associations representing the operators involved in the PMEM (see below).

Since traders may commingle GMB151 soybean with other commercial soybean, including authorised GM soybean, the authorization holder is working together with other members of the plant biotechnology industry within the European Association of Bioindustries (EuropaBio) and trade associations representing the relevant operators in order to implement a harmonised monitoring methodology. The following networks are currently involved:

⇒ *Importers / Traders*

COCERAL is the European association of trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agro-supply. It represents the interests of the European collectors, traders, importers, exporters and port silo storekeepers of the above mentioned agricultural products. The main importers of cereals and feedstuffs into the EU are members of COCERAL.

Also see:

<http://www.coceral.com/>

⇒ *Silo Operators*

UNISTOCK is the European association representing professional storekeepers for agribulk commodities in the EU. UNISTOCK full and extraordinary members are present in twelve countries and UNISTOCK is itself a full member of COCERAL. Commodity imports enter the EU by sea and transit through sea-port silos. The main storekeepers managing these silos are members of UNISTOCK.

Also see: <http://www.unistock.be/>

⇒ *Processors*

FEDIOL, the federation of the EU vegetable Oil and Protein Meal Industry, represents the interests of the European crushers of soybean meal producers and vegetable oil producers/processors.

Also see: <http://www.fediol.eu/>.

These associations represent the majority of European operators importing, handling and processing viable soybean commodity. They work closely together with a continuous and efficient flow of communication between them, particularly, through the documentation that needs to accompany any shipment containing GMOs in accordance with the labelling and traceability requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003, and are therefore best placed to observe and report any unanticipated adverse effects.

Other networks consisting of operators further down the food and feed chain have not been selected for the general surveillance of viable GMB151 soybean, because they focus on processed, non-viable material.

Additional sources of information

In addition to the aforementioned existing monitoring systems, extensive independent research by scientists with a wide range of expertise is another valuable source of information on potential adverse effects arising from the use of GMOs. The authorization holder will actively screen relevant reports and peer-reviewed publications on the use of GMB151 soybean, in order to identify potential unforeseen adverse effects linked to GMB151 soybean.

4.6 Monitoring methodology

The authorization holder, together with other members of the plant biotechnology industry and EuropaBio, will implement general surveillance of viable GM soybean, including GMB151 soybean, with the help of the selected networks described in Section 4.5.

The different parties agreed on a general framework for monitoring of GMOs, including GMB151 soybean, as follows:

⇒ The authorization holder represented by EuropaBio will:

- Agree with the operators before adding or amending activities that fall under their responsibility in accordance with the proposed PMEM plan.
- Inform operators concerning the authorization, safety and general characteristics of GMB151 soybean and of the conditions as to general surveillance.
- Set up and maintain a website dedicated to operators including detailed information on GMB151 soybean. The website, hosted on the EuropaBio website under <http://www.europabio.org/agricultural-biotech/trade-and-approvals/operators-product-information/>, contains the following information:
 - An introduction to the purpose of the website.

- A table giving an overview of all currently approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance.
- A profile for every approved GM plant product providing documentation on characteristics and safety, positive EFSA opinion(s) and Commission Decision(s) authorizing the GM plant product in the EU.
- A contact point at EuropaBio for information exchange on any of the GM plant products.

The website will be regularly updated in order to further facilitate and ensure a transparent process for general surveillance and easy access to relevant information for operators.

- Contact the selected networks of operators annually reminding them of their agreement to report on any unanticipated adverse effects (or absence thereof).

⇒ The selected networks of operators (European trade associations) will:

- Inform and remind their member organizations and companies on an annual basis:
 - To monitor for potential unanticipated adverse effects.
 - That, in the framework of their management or safety standards (ISO, HACCP, etc), procedures must be in place and implemented to limit losses and spillage of viable soybean and to routinely eradicate adventitious populations on their premises – any such adventitious populations, resisting routine eradication procedures, shall be treated as potential adverse effects.
 - To inform and remind their own member companies of this requirement.
 - To report back any adverse effect reported to them to the European trade associations.
- Report to the authorization holders directly or via EuropaBio:
 - At least annually, regardless of whether an adverse effect was observed or not.
 - Immediately any adverse effects reported to them.

Consequently, the European trade associations COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL will notify EuropaBio of the results of the general surveillance on an annual basis. EuropaBio will forward this report to the respective authorization holders for inclusion in their annual report to the European Commission, as described in Section 5.

The general surveillance information reported to and collected by the authorization holder from the European trade associations or other sources will be analysed for its relevance. Where information indicates the possibility of an unanticipated adverse effect, the authorization holder will immediately investigate to determine and confirm whether a significant correlation between the effect and GMB151 soybean can be established. If the investigation establishes that GMB151 soybean was present when the adverse effect was identified, and confirms that GMB151 soybean is the cause of the adverse effect, the

authorization holder will immediately inform the European Commission, as described in Section 5.

5 Reporting the results of monitoring

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, the authorization holder is responsible to inform the European Commission of the results of the general surveillance.

If information that confirms an adverse effect of GMB151 soybean and that alters the existing risk assessment becomes available, the authorization holder will immediately investigate and inform the European Commission. The authorization holder, in collaboration with the European Commission and based on a scientific evaluation of the potential consequences of the observed adverse effect, will define and implement management measures to protect human and animal health or the environment, as necessary. It is important that the remedial action is proportionate to the significance of the confirmed effect.

The authorization holder will submit an annual monitoring report including results of the general surveillance in accordance with the conditions of the authorization. The report will contain information on unanticipated adverse effects, if any, that have arisen from handling and use of viable GMB151 soybean.

The report will include a scientific evaluation of the confirmed adverse effect, a conclusion of the safety of GMB151 soybean and, as appropriate, the measures that were taken to ensure the safety of human and animal health or the environment.

The report will also clearly state which parts of the provided information are considered to be confidential, together with a verifiable justification for confidentiality in accordance with Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. Confidential parts of such report shall be submitted in separate documents.

6 Review and adaptation

The PMEM plan and associated methodology will be reviewed and updated or adapted as necessary.