

Directive

9180.67

1-25-07

LETTERHEAD TRANSGENIC AND BIOTECHNOLOGY STATEMENTS FOR GRAIN AND GRADED COMMODITIES

1. PURPOSE

This directive transmits procedures for accessing and providing approved letterhead statements pertaining to the transgenic (genetic engineering) status of grain, and graded commodities in U.S. commerce, and to the performance of testing methods used for detecting select biotech events.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces FGIS Directive 9180.67, dated 8-21-06, and is revised to make minor editorial changes.

3. BACKGROUND

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has received requests to provide a letterhead statement indicating the transgenic status of grain, pulses, and other agricultural varieties that are in commercial production in the United States.

To date, the U.S. Government has deregulated some agricultural commodities for commercial production in the United States, while others are still regulated. The regulatory status of these agricultural commodities fall within three categories:

- a. Regulated and not for commercial production in the United States.
- b. Deregulated, but based upon information supplied by the developer, not for sale or in commercial production.
- c. Deregulated and in commercial production in the United States.

Additionally, buyers and sellers of U.S. grain have requested miscellaneous statements referencing the type and use of transgenic grains and commodities currently in production in the United States.

4. STATEMENTS

In an effort to aid in the marketing of U.S. grain, pulses, and other agricultural commodities, GIPSA will provide (upon request of an applicant) the applicable factual letterhead statement. The statements are divided into two categories -- transgenic status and miscellaneous statements -- and can be accessed at the following website:
http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/rdd/transgenic_statements.pdf

Because of the rapidly evolving nature of the technology, approved statements frequently are added and/or amended. Official personnel should check the website for the most current information before issuing letterhead statements.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the regulatory and commercial status of grain, pulses, and other agricultural commodities reviewed by the U.S. Government, please consult
<http://usbiotechreg.nbio.gov/>.

For information concerning the letterhead statements contact the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

/s/ John Giler

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