



Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms (Article 18)

Background

The Protocol (Article 18) requires Parties to take measures to require that LMOs that are subject to intentional transboundary movement are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety, taking into consideration relevant international rules and standards. It sets out obligations on each Party to take measures that require the identification of LMOs in the accompanying documentation. These identification measures vary depending on the intended use of the LMOs. Accordingly there are different requirements for LMOs intended for direct use as food, feed or processing (LMOs-FFP), LMOs destined for contained use, and LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment. Paragraph 3 provides for a possible development of standards by Parties to the Protocol, as may be needed, with regard to practices in the identification, handling, packaging and transporting of LMOs.

Some facts

- At MOP 1, Parties adopted detailed requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of LMOs for contained use and LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import.
- At MOP 3, the Parties agreed on the detailed requirements for documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP, in commercial production and authorized in accordance with domestic regulatory frameworks, is in compliance with the requirements of the country of import.

What is being done?

Parties, other governments and relevant stakeholders are currently in the process of establishing measures to implement the documentation requirements under Article 18 of the Protocol. Some exporters and importers have gained experience in integrating the requirements in existing documentation systems. However many countries still lack capacity to implement the requirements. The CBD Secretariat, through the Green Customs Initiative, has undertaken some training activities for customs officials.



What is expected at COP-MOP 4?

At this meeting, the Parties are expected to, among other things:

- Consider the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport of LMOs (paragraph 3 of Article 18);
- Review the experience gained with the use of LMO sampling and detection techniques and consider the need for and modalities of developing criteria for acceptability of, and harmonizing of such techniques;
- Consider a report on the experience gained with the use of a commercial invoice or other documents required or utilized by existing documentation systems pursuant to national requirements with a view to future consideration of a stand-alone document.

For more Information:

COP-MOP 4 website: <http://www.cbd.int/mop4>

Protocol website: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety>

Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int>

Frequently asked questions: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/faqs.asp>