



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Transparency and risk communication in the regulation of LMOs in the UK

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Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety – Annex III

Risk Assessment of LMOs:

- Objective
- Use of Risk Assessment
- General Principles
 - Risk assessment should be carried out in a scientifically sound and transparent manner, and can take into account expert advice of, and guidelines developed by, relevant international organizations.
- Methodology
- Points to consider

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Biosafety Clearing House

- Risk assessment
- Notification
- LMO – trait, unique identifier
- Cassette elements: functions and origins
- Decision - receiving Party/non Party



UK GMO regulatory landscape

Defra

- UK GMO policy and regulation of deliberate release (devolved policy EWS)

Food Standards Agency (and Food Standards Scotland)

- GM food and feed regulations

Health and Safety Executive (Defra jointly)

- Contained Use

GMO risk assessments: information requirements differ

Crops

- Wheat
- Barley
- Potatoes
- Camelina
- Brassica

Vaccines

- Bordetella pertussis (whooping cough)
- Salmonella Paratyphi (typhoid/paratyphoid)
- Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumonia)
- Neisseria lactamica (meningitis)
- Adenovirus (HIV)

Transparency and communication

Legislation

- Freedom of Information Act
- Environmental Information Regulation
- Aarhus Convention

Specific GMO applications

- Public register
- National newspaper publication
- **Public consultation**
- Location of release site
- Consent (RM/conditions of release)
- **Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) scientific advice**

Transparency and communication

Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment

- Comprised of independent scientific experts
- Appointed by Ministers of the UK and its Devolved Administrations
- Highly rigorous appointment process for all NDPBs in the UK
- Strict standards of independence and behaviour (Nolan principles)
- ACRE work is published

Transparency and communication

Public consultation

- Legal requirement to invite public comments on any risks of damage being caused to the environment by a release
- All comments are considered by Defra
- Comments that have a scientific basis are addressed by ACRE