
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2003 No. 167

The Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

PART II

RELEASING ORGANISMS FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN MARKETING

Requirement for consent to release

8. The cases and circumstances prescribed for the purposes of Article 8(1)(a) of the Order in relation to the release of any genetically modified organisms are all cases and circumstances in which genetically modified organisms are intended to be released.

Exempt activities

9. The cases and circumstances prescribed for the purposes of Article 8(7) of the Order in which persons are exempt from the requirements of Article 8(1)(a) of the Order, insofar as those requirements apply to the release of genetically modified organisms, are all cases and circumstances in which the release is in accordance with a consent to market genetically modified organisms under Article 8(1)(a) of the Order or in which an approved product is released in accordance with the conditions and limitations to which the use of the product is subject.

Applications for consent to release genetically modified organisms – general provisions

10.—(1) An application for a consent to release genetically modified organisms must be made in writing to the Department.

(2) Proposed releases of the same genetically modified organism or of a combination of genetically modified organisms on the same site or on different sites for the same purpose and within a defined period may be notified in a single application.

(3) Where an application for a consent to release genetically modified organisms is expressed to rely on the First Simplified Procedure (crop plants) Decision, in the event of any inconsistency in the requirements as to information to be provided under that Decision and the requirements as to information to be provided under these Regulations, the provisions of that Decision shall prevail.

Information to be contained in applications for consent to release

11.—(1) An application for a consent to release genetically modified organisms must contain –

(a) the information prescribed in –

(i) Schedule 1, where the application is for consent to release any genetically modified higher plant, or

(ii) Schedule 2 in any other case,

- to the extent and at the level of detail that such information is appropriate to the nature and scale of the release or application;
- (b) information on data or results from any previous release of the organisms, or of the same combination of organisms, which has been carried out by the applicant, and information from any previous application for the release of the organisms, or of the same combination of organisms, which the applicant has made to the Department pursuant to the Order or to another competent authority in accordance with Article 6 of the Deliberate Release Directive;
 - (c) an environmental risk assessment prepared in accordance with regulation 6;
 - (d) a summary, in the format established by the Commission under Article 11(1) of the Deliberate Release Directive, of the information contained in the application.
- (2) The application may contain –
- (a) data or results from an application for consent to release genetically modified organisms previously made by some other person, provided that a copy of that person’s agreement in writing is contained in the application; and
 - (b) any other information which the applicant considers is relevant.

Advertisement of applications for consent to release

12.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a person who makes an application for a consent to release genetically modified organisms shall, not more than ten days after he sends that application to the Department, cause to be published in at least three newspapers to be specified by the Department a notice containing the following information –

- (a) the name and address of the applicant,
- (b) the general description of the organisms to be released,
- (c) the location and purpose of the release,
- (d) the intended date or dates of the release,
- (e) a statement that information about the application will be placed on the register by the Department within twelve days of its receipt of the application,
- (f) the means by which that register can be inspected,
- (g) a statement that the Department will consider any representations made to it relating to risks of damage to the environment posed by the release of the genetically modified organisms within a period which it shall specify in accordance with these Regulations

and shall immediately send copies of the newspapers containing the advertisement to the Department.

(2) A notice published under paragraph (1) need not contain the information referred to in subparagraphs (c) and (d) of that paragraph insofar as the First Simplified Procedure (crop plants) Decision does not require that information to be submitted with the application and that information is not submitted with the application.

(3) An applicant for consent shall ascertain from the Department the level of detail on the location of the release which will be placed on the register and shall include the same level of detail in the notice to be published under paragraph (1).

(4) A person who makes an application for a consent to release genetically modified organisms shall, not more than ten days after he sends that application to the Department, give to the following persons notice in writing that he has made the application and shall include in such notice the information prescribed in paragraph (1)(a) to (g), save in so far as paragraph (2) permits such information to be excluded from the notice referred to in paragraph (1) –

- (a) the district council for the area or areas of each proposed release,
 - (b) the owner or owners of the site or sites of each proposed release, if a person other than the applicant,
 - (c) each member of the genetic modification safety committee established by the applicant under regulation 16 of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001⁽¹⁾,
 - (d) the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- and shall immediately send to the Department copies of the notices.

Transitional provisions for release

13. Where the Department has received an application for consent to release genetically modified organisms before 15th April 2003 pursuant to the 1994 Regulations and has not yet determined the application –

- (a) the application shall be subject to the provisions of these Regulations,
- (b) the applicant shall submit to the Department such further information, additional to that already provided in connection with the application, as is necessary in order to comply with the requirements of these Regulations by 17th July 2003,
- (c) the application shall be treated as having been sent to the Department for the purposes of regulations 12(1) and (4) and as having been received by the Department for the purpose of regulation 20 on submission of the information required by paragraph (b), and
- (d) if the information required by paragraph (b) has not been submitted by 17th July 2003, the Department may refuse to proceed with the application.