



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health and Ageing  
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator**

# **Licence for dealings involving an intentional release of a GMO into the environment**

**Licence No.: DIR 118**

**Licence holder: Monsanto Australia Ltd**

**Title: Commercial release of GM herbicide tolerant (Roundup Ready Flex<sup>®</sup> MON 88913) pima cotton**

Issued: 16 August 2013

**More information about the decision to issue this licence is contained in the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan prepared in connection with the assessment of the application for the licence. This document can be obtained from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator website at [OGTR Website](#) or by telephoning the Office on 1800 181 030.**

## **Gene Technology Regulation in Australia**

Australia's gene technology regulatory system operates as part of an integrated legislative framework. The *Gene Technology Act 2000* (Cth) and corresponding state and territory legislation form a substantial part of a nationally consistent regulatory system controlling the development and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

This licence is issued by the Gene Technology Regulator in accordance with the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and, as applicable, Corresponding State Law.

The Gene Technology Regulator is required to consult with, and take into account advice from, a range of key stakeholders, including other regulatory authorities, on risks to human health and safety and to the environment in assessing applications for dealings involving the intentional release of GMOs into the Australian environment.

Other agencies that also regulate GMOs or GM products include Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Therapeutic Goods Administration, National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme, National Health and Medical Research Council and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Biosecurity. Dealings conducted under any licence issued by the Regulator may also be subject to regulation by one or more of these agencies. It is recommended that the licence holder consult the relevant agency (or agencies) about their regulatory requirements.

The licence authorises the licence holder and persons covered by the licence to conduct specified dealings with the genetically modified organism(s) listed in Attachment A of this licence. Dealings permitted by this licence may also be subject to the operation of State legislation declaring areas to be GM, GM free, or both, for marketing purposes.

## **Section 1 Interpretations and Definitions**

1. In this licence:

- (a) unless defined otherwise in this licence, words and phrases used in this licence have the same meaning as they do in the Act and the Regulations;
- (b) words importing a gender include any other gender;
- (c) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular;
- (d) words importing persons include a partnership and a body whether corporate or otherwise;
- (e) references to any statute or other legislation (whether primary or subordinate) are a reference to a statute or other legislation of the Commonwealth of Australia as amended or replaced from time to time and equivalent provisions, if any, in corresponding State law, unless the contrary intention appears;
- (f) where any word or phrase is given a defined meaning, any other part of speech or other grammatical form in respect of that word has a corresponding meaning;
- (g) specific conditions prevail over standard conditions to the extent of any inconsistency.

2. In this licence:

‘**Act**’ means the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (Cth) or the corresponding State legislation under which this licence is issued.

‘**Cotton**’ means plants of the species *Gossypium barbadense*.

‘**GM**’ means genetically modified.

‘**GMOs**’ means the genetically modified organisms that are the subject of the dealings authorised by this licence.

‘**OGTR**’ means the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.

‘**Personal Information**’ means information or an opinion (including information forming part of a database), whether true or not, and whether recorded in a material form or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion.

## **Section 2 Licence conditions and obligations**

3. This licence does not authorise dealings with GMOs that are otherwise prohibited as a result of the operation of State legislation declaring areas to be GM, GM free, or both, for marketing purposes.

4. This licence remains in force until it is suspended, cancelled or surrendered. No dealings with GMOs are authorised during any period of suspension.

5. The holder of this licence ('the licence holder') is Monsanto Australia Ltd.

6. The licence holder must immediately notify the Regulator, via [OGTR.M&C@health.gov.au](mailto:OGTR.M&C@health.gov.au), if any of the contact details of the project supervisor change.

7. Any person, including the licence holder, may conduct any permitted dealing(s) with the GMO.

8. All dealings with the GMOs are permitted.

9. Dealings with the GMO may be conducted in all areas of Australia.

10. The GMOs covered by this licence are described in Attachment A of the licence.
11. To the extent that the conditions of any prior licence authorising dealings with the GMO are inconsistent with the conditions of this licence, the conditions of this licence will prevail.

### **Obligations of the Licence Holder**

*Prior to issuing a licence, the Regulator considers suitability of the applicant to hold a licence. The following conditions address ongoing suitability of the licence holder.*

12. The licence holder must, at all times, remain an accredited organisation in accordance with the Act and must comply with its instrument of accreditation.
13. The licence holder must:
  - (a) inform the Regulator immediately in writing, of:
    - i. any relevant conviction of the licence holder occurring after the commencement of this licence; and
    - ii. any revocation or suspension of a licence or permit held by the licence holder under a law of the Australian Government, a State or a foreign country, being a law relating to the health and safety of people or the environment; and
    - iii. any event or circumstances occurring after the commencement of this licence that would affect the capacity of the holder of this licence to meet the conditions in it; and
  - (b) provide any information related to the licence holder's ongoing suitability to hold a licence, if requested, within the stipulated timeframe.
14. The licence holder must inform any person covered by this licence, to whom a particular condition of the licence applies, of the following:
  - (a) the particular condition (including any variations of it); and
  - (b) the cancellation or suspension of the licence; and
  - (c) the surrender of the licence.

### **Provision of new information to the Regulator**

*Licence conditions are based on the risk assessment and risk management plan developed in relation to the application using information available at the time of assessment. The following condition requires that any new information that may affect the risk assessment is communicated to the Regulator.*

15. The licence holder must inform the Regulator if the licence holder becomes aware of:
  - (a) additional information as to any risks to the health and safety of people, or to the environment, associated with the dealings authorised by the licence; or
  - (b) any contraventions of the licence by a person covered by the licence; or
  - (c) any unintended effects of the dealings authorised by the licence.

*Note: The Act requires, for the purposes of the above condition, that:*

- (a) *the licence holder will be taken to have become aware of additional information of a kind mentioned in paragraph 15(a) if he or she was reckless as to whether such information existed; and*

- (b) *the licence holder will be taken to have become aware of contraventions, or unintended effects, of a kind mentioned in paragraph 15(b) if he or she was reckless as to whether such contraventions had occurred, or such unintended effects existed.*

*Note: Contraventions of the licence may occur through the action or inaction of a person.*

16. If the licence holder is required to inform the Regulator under the immediately preceding condition, the Regulator must be informed without delay.

*Note: An example of informing without delay is contact made at the time of the incident via the OGTR free call phone number 1800 181 030, which provides emergency numbers for incidents that occur out of business hours. Notification without delay will allow the OGTR to conduct a risk assessment on the incident and attend the location if required.*

17. If at any time the Regulator requests the licence holder to collect and provide information about any matter to do with the progress of the dealings authorised by this licence, including but not confined to:

- (a) additional information as to any risks to the health and safety of people, or to the environment, associated with the dealings authorised by the licence, whether or not the licence holder has provided information to the Regulator under condition 15 (a);
- (b) any contraventions of the licence by a person covered by the licence, whether or not the licence holder has provided information to the Regulator under condition 15 (b);
- (c) any unintended effects of the dealings authorised by the licence, whether or not the licence holder has provided information to the Regulator under condition 15 (c);
- (d) research, including by way of survey, to verify predictions of the risk assessment, or for any purpose related to risks to the health and safety of people, or to the environment;
- (e) scientific literature and reports in respect of the GMO authorised by this licence, for a nominated period;
- (f) details of any refusals of applications for licences or permits (however described) to deal with the GMO made pursuant to the regulatory laws of a foreign country;

and the request is reasonable, having regard to consistency with the Act and relevance to its purpose, then the licence holder must collect the information and provide it to the Regulator at a time and in the manner requested by the Regulator.

*Note: The Regulator may invite the licence holder to make a submission on the reasonability of a request by the Regulator to collect and provide information relevant the progress of the GM dealings.*

### **Obligations of persons covered by the licence**

18. If a person is authorised by this licence to deal with the GMOs and a particular condition of this licence applies to the dealing by that person, the person must allow the Regulator, or a person authorised by the Regulator, to enter premises where the dealing is being undertaken, for the purposes of auditing or monitoring the dealing.

## **Section 3 Reporting and Documentation Requirements**

### **Annual Report**

19. The licence holder must provide an Annual Report to the Regulator by the end of June each year. An Annual Report must include the following:

- (a) information about any adverse impacts, unintended effects, or new information relating to risks, to human health and safety or the environment caused by the GMOs or material from the GMOs;
- (b) information about the volumes of the GMOs grown for commercial purposes, including seed increase operations, in each State and Territory for each growing season in the period;
- (c) information about the volumes of the GMOs grown for non-commercial (eg research) purposes in each State and Territory for each growing season in the period.

***Testing methodology***

20. Prior to conducting any dealings with the GMOs, the licence holder must provide to the Regulator a written methodology to reliably detect the GMOs, and the presence of the genetic modifications described in this licence in a recipient organism. The testing method must be capable of reliably distinguishing between the specific genetic modification in the GMOs described in this licence and other genetic modifications described in other licences.

**DIR No: 118**

**Full Title:** Commercial release of GM herbicide tolerant (Roundup Ready Flex<sup>®</sup> MON 88913) pima cotton

**Organisation Details**

Postal address: Monsanto Australia Ltd  
Level 12, 600 St Kilda Road  
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Phone No: (03) 9522 7122

**IBC Details**

IBC Name: Monsanto Australia Ltd IBC

**GMO Description**

**GMOs covered by this licence:**

*Gossypium barbadense* L. genetically modified by introduction of only the genes and genetic elements listed below.

**Parent Organism:**

Common Name: Cotton

Scientific Name: *Gossypium barbadense* L.

**Modified trait:**

Category: Herbicide tolerance

Description: The genetic modification event MON 88913, originally generated in *G. hirsutum*, has been transferred to pima cotton (*G. barbadense*) by conventional breeding.

**Genetic elements responsible for conferring the modified trait:**

Genes: Two copies of the 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (*epsps*) gene from the bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain CP4.

Transit Peptide: *ctp2* (chloroplast transit peptide) from the *epsps* gene of *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*A. thaliana*).

Promoters: One *epsps* gene has a chimeric promoter of sequences from the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S gene (CaMV 35S) promoter and the promoter of the *A. thaliana ACT8* gene. Between the chimeric promoter and the *ctp2/epsps* coding sequence are non-translated leader and intron/exon sequences from the *ACT8* gene. The other *epsps* gene has a chimeric promoter of sequences from the figwort mosaic virus 35S gene (FMV 35S) promoter and the promoter of the *A. thaliana TSF1* gene. Between this chimeric promoter and the *ctp2/epsps* coding sequence is a non-translated leader sequence from the *TSF1* gene.

Terminator: T-E9, derived from the *Pisum sativum* (pea) ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase (*rbc*) small subunit E9 gene.

**Purpose of the dealings with the GMOs**

Commercial production of Roundup Ready Flex<sup>®</sup> MON 88913 *G. barbadense* in all areas of Australia, and for products of the GMOs to enter general commerce.

