



**Australian Government**  

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

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

**Licence No.: DIR 062/2005**

**Licence holder: BASF Australia Ltd**

**Title: Commercial release of herbicide tolerant Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> Cotton and herbicide tolerant/insect resistant Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> /BollgardII<sup>®</sup> (MON15985) Cotton for use in the Australian cropping system**

Issued: 8 August 2006  
Varied: 20 September 2007  
Transferred: 2 October 2018  
Transferred: 18 April 2019

**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](#), 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 range of integrated regulatory measures relevant to controlling genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their use.

The Gene Technology Regulator is required to consult with, and take into account advice from a range of key stakeholders, including 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 (FSANZ), Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). 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.

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***

In this licence:

- (a) unless defined otherwise in this licence, words and phrases used in this licence have the same meanings as they do in the Act and the *Gene Technology Regulations 2001*;
- (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 or phrase has a corresponding meaning.

In this licence:

**‘Act’** means the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (Cth) and equivalent provisions in corresponding State law.

**‘Annual Report’** means a written report provided to the Regulator within 90 days of each anniversary of the date of issue of this licence containing all the information required by this licence to be provided in the Annual Report.

**‘Cotton’** means plants of the species *Gossypium hirsutum* L.

**‘Deal with’** in relation to a GMO means one or more of the following:

- (a) conduct experiments with the GMOs;
- (b) make, develop, produce or manufacture the GMOs;
- (c) breed the GMOs;
- (d) propagate the GMOs;
- (e) use the GMOs in the course of manufacture of a thing that is not the GMOs;
- (f) grow, raise or culture the GMOs;
- (g) import the GMOs;

and includes the possession, supply, use, transport or disposal of the GMO for the purposes of, or in the course of, a dealing mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (g).

**‘GM’** means genetically modified.

**‘GMOs’** means the genetically modified organisms listed in Attachment B and authorised for release by this licence.

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

**‘Personal information’** means information or an opinion (including 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.

**‘Location’** means an area of land where the GMOs are planted and grown for the purposes of a licence.

**‘Regulator’** means the Gene Technology Regulator.

## **Section 2 - Licence Conditions**

### **Duration of licence**

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

### **Holder of licence**

2. The holder of this licence (‘the licence holder’) is BASF Australia Ltd.

### **Project Supervisor**

3. The Project Supervisor in respect of this licence is identified at **Attachment A**.
4. The licence holder must immediately notify the Regulator in writing if any of the contact details of the Project Supervisor change.

### **Persons covered by this GMO licence**

5. Subject to condition 6, any person, including the licence holder, may conduct any Dealing with the GMOs.
6. Where the GMOs authorised by this licence are planted or in any other way Dealt with as part of a subsequent licence, or subsequent licence variation, authorising a dealing under the Act, then, for purposes of the subsequent licence, or subsequent licence variation,
  - (a) only the persons covered by the subsequent licence or licence variation are permitted to grow or otherwise deal with the GMOs, and,
  - (b) the conditions of the subsequent licence or the licence containing the licence variation, and not the conditions of this licence, will apply to the dealing with the GMOs.

*Example: If a subsequent licence contemplates the planting of these GMOs in a Location containing another GMO authorised by that later licence, the conditions of the subsequent licence and not the conditions of this licence will apply to the GMOs for purposes of the dealings conducted under that licence.*

### **Informing people of their obligations**

7. The licence holder must inform any person covered by this licence, to whom a particular condition of this licence applies, of the following:
  - (a) the particular condition (including any variations of it);
  - (b) the cancellation or suspension of the licence;
  - (c) the surrender of the licence.
8. The licence holder must notify the project supervisor and all persons covered by a licence to whom a condition of this licence applies that Personal Information collected by the licence holder which is relevant to the administration and/or enforcement of the licence may be released to the Regulator.

### **Licence holder to notify of circumstances that might affect suitability**

9. The licence holder must immediately, by notice in writing, inform the Regulator of:
  - (a) any relevant conviction of the licence holder occurring after the commencement of this licence;

- (b) 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;
- (c) 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.

### **Licence holder must provide information on matters related to suitability**

- 10. The licence holder must provide information related to the licence holder's ongoing suitability to hold a licence when requested to do so in writing by the Regulator and must provide the information within a time period stipulated by the Regulator.

### **People dealing with GMOs must allow auditing and monitoring of the dealing**

- 11. If a person authorised by this licence to deal with 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.

### **Remaining an accredited organisation**

- 12. The licence holder must, at all times, remain an accredited organisation in accordance with the Act and comply with its instrument of accreditation.

## ***Section 3 - Growing the GMOs***

### **GMOs covered by this licence**

- 13. The GMOs covered by this licence ('the GMOs') are identified and described at **Attachment B**.

### **Location**

- 14. 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.

## ***Section 4 - Reporting and Documentation Requirements***

### **Additional information to be given to the Regulator**

- 15. It is a condition of a licence that the licence holder inform the Regulator if the licence holder:
  - (a) becomes aware of 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) becomes aware of any contraventions of the licence by a person covered by the licence; or
  - (c) becomes aware of 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 licence condition 15 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 licence condition 15 if he or she was reckless as to whether such contraventions had occurred, or such unintended effects existed.*
16. The licence holder must provide the information required by paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) of condition 15 to the Regulator as soon as practically and reasonably possible and must also include the information in the Annual Report.
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); and
  - (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); and
  - (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); and
  - (d) information about the actual or anticipated regional location and size of the release, for a nominated period, and
  - (e) 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, and
  - (f) scientific literature and reports in respect of the GMO(s) authorised by this licence, for a nominated period, and
  - (g) details of any refusals of applications for licences or permits (however described) to deal with the GMO(s) 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.
18. If the Regulator invites 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 GMO, the licence holder may make such a submission to the Regulator within thirty (30) days of receipt of the invitation.

### **Compliance management plan**

19. Prior to growing the GMOs, a written Compliance Management Plan must be provided to the Regulator. The Compliance Management Plan must describe in detail how the licence holder intends to ensure compliance with each of these conditions and document that compliance.

### **Annual Report**

20. The licence holder must provide an Annual Report to the Regulator.

## **Testing Methodology**

21. The licence holder must provide a written instrument to the Regulator describing an experimental method that is capable of reliably detecting the presence of the GMOs and the presence of the genetic modifications described in this licence (at Attachment B) in a recipient organism. The instrument must be provided within thirty (30) days of the issuing of this licence.

**DIR No: 062/2005**

**\*Full Title:** Commercial release of herbicide tolerant Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> Cotton and herbicide tolerant/insect resistant Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> /BollgardII<sup>®</sup> (MON15985) Cotton for use in the Australian cropping system

**Organisation Details**

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**IBC Details**

**IBC Name:** BASF Australia IBC

\* Information that must be included in the Record of GM Products and GMOs Dealings.

## **GMO Description**

### **Purpose of the Dealings with the GMO:**

The aim of the proposed release is to allow commercial production and use of the GM cotton in Australia.

### **The GMO covered by this licence is as follows:**

Liberty Link<sup>®</sup>

Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> / Bollgard II<sup>®</sup> MON15985 Cotton

### **\*Parent Organism(s):**

Common Name: Cotton

Scientific Name: *Gossypium hirsutum* L.

### **\*Modified trait:**

Category: Herbicide tolerance/Insect resistance; Antibiotic resistance

Description: Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> cotton plants have been genetically modified to be tolerant to the herbicide glufosinate ammonium (transformation event LLCotton25). Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> / Bollgard II<sup>®</sup> MON15985 Cotton, is resistant to lepidopteran insect pests of cotton and tolerant to the herbicide glufosinate ammonium, it was conventionally bred by crossing GM Liberty Link<sup>®</sup> cotton and Bollgard II<sup>®</sup> MON15985 cotton. Two marker genes *nptII* and *uidA* are also present.

### **\*Gene responsible for conferring the modified trait:**

- *bar* gene from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* (herbicide tolerance)
- The *cryIAc* and *cry2Ab* genes from derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety *kurstaki*, a common soil bacterium (insect resistance)
- *nptII* gene from the bacterial Tn5 transposon (antibiotic resistance)
- *uidA* gene from *Escherichia coli* K12 (reporter gene)

\* Information that must be included in the Record of GM Products and GMOs Dealings.