



Information for importers of grain and laboratory/research supplies



If you are importing genetically modified grain or you are importing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on behalf of researchers, then you have specific obligations under the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.

Importing grain

If you are importing seed or grain that contains any GMOs, you are required to notify Australian quarantine services by marking 'yes' at the appropriate question in the BICON permit or approved arrangement application and providing details of relevant authorisation (for example, OGTR licence number or NLRD identifier number and name of assessing IBC).

To verify authorisations, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the OGTR may exchange information that importers have provided to either agency.

For information on how to apply for a licence or other authorisation [contact](#) the OGTR. Importers should be aware that an authorisation may take time, so it should be sought well in advance of importing.

Importing laboratory supplies containing GMOs

The use of GMOs in research in Australia is predominantly for agricultural and medical research – most often carried out by universities, hospitals and government research institutions, with the remaining 10 per cent carried out by private companies.

If you or your agent are planning to import and/or work with GMOs then you will need permission.

There are exceptions for some GMOs that have been assessed as of negligible risk. These are GMOs with a long record of safe use, are included in the legislation as 'exempt dealings', and are packaged to prevent release into the environment.

If you are acting as an agent for a client who is importing or transporting a GMO, or in similar situations, it may be that your client is required to gain authorisation from the OGTR. If that's the case, you still need to ensure that the appropriate authorisation is in place beforehand and that it covers your activities. If not, you will need to obtain your own authorisation.

Related factsheets

Who needs to apply to import or use (deal with) a GMO?

Public participation in assessing gene technology

Further reading

Genetically modified organisms in Australia

Genetically modified (GM) crops in Australia

How are genetically modified organisms (GMOs) regulated in Australia?

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