

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Malaysia

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Biotech Labeling Requirements

Report Categories:

Biotechnology and Other New Production
Technologies

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Report Highlights:

Malaysia's Ministry of Health (MOH) recently posted new biotech labeling requirements. The requirements will not be enforced until July 2014. Meat raised with GMO grains is exempt, as is refined foods, such as oils and corn syrup. A three percent threshold for adventitious presence is allowed.

Labeling Requirements:

Malaysia's Ministry of Health (MOH) recently posted their "Guidelines on Labeling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained through Modern Biotechnology." The document can be found here:

http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v4/images/filepicker_users/5ec35272cb-78/Perundangan/Garispanduan/Pelabelan/GUIDELINES-ON-LABELLING-OF-FOODS-AND-FOOD-INGREDIENTS-PRODUCED-FROM-MODERN-BIOTECHNOLOGY_%2012042013-p.pdf

MOH will begin enforcing the guidelines on 8 July 2014.

Some key elements of the labeling guidelines include:

- A genetically modified organism (GMO) is defined as something whose genetic material has been changed in a way that does not occur naturally by multiplication or natural recombination.
- The labeling requirements do not apply when GMO content is not more than three percent, "provided that this presence is adventitious or technically unavoidable."
- For single ingredient foods, the words "genetically modified (name of the ingredient)" must appear in the main display panel.
- For multi-ingredient foods, the words "produced from genetically modified (name of the ingredient)" should appear in list of ingredients and "contains genetically modified ingredient" must be stated on the main display panel.
- Highly refined foods, defined as those where processing has removed all novel DNA and protein, are exempt from the labeling requirement. (e.g.: vegetable oils, corn syrup, acidic foods, and salty foods).
- Meat from animals fed with genetically modified grains are exempt.
- The only GMO events that can be used for foods and food ingredients are those that have been approved by the National Safety Board. The list of approved events can be found here: http://www.biosafety.nre.gov.my/country_decision/app_ffp.shtml
(As of June 2013, only 3 soybean and 6 corn events had been approved).

END OF REPORT.