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## **South Africa - Republic of**

**Post:** Pretoria

### **Consumer Protection Act Postponed**

**Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

On September 23, The Department of Trade and Industry postponed the implementation date for South Africa's new Consumer Protection Act (Act No. 68 of 2008) to March 31, 2011. Under the act, mandatory labeling of all products containing Genetically Modified Organisms will be required. The draft legislation is currently in a public comment period, which is scheduled to close on October 15.

**Executive Summary:**

The implementation date of the Consumer Protection Act has been postponed to March 31, 2011, as the South African Government requires additional time to determine how to implement and enforce the act (see attachment).

On April 24, 2009, South Africa’s new Consumer Protection Bill was signed into law ([see also Consumer Protection Act Gain report of 2009](#)) as a means to prevent exploitation or harm, and to promote the social well being of consumers. The new Consumer Protection Act (Act No. 68 of 2008), proposed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), requires food and beverage products labeling in South Africa to declare the presence of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) ingredients. The mandatory labeling of all products containing biotech ingredients is stated in Section 24(6):

*(6) Any person who produces, supplies, imports or packages any prescribed goods must display on, or in association with the packaging of those goods, a notice in the prescribed manner and form that discloses the presence of any genetically modified ingredients or components of those goods in accordance with applicable regulations.*

Representatives from the South African Agricultural Industry have raised their concerns to the DTI over the proposed language. The South African agricultural sector wants a regulation that is practical given the high level of biotech adoption in South Africa. However, DTI views GMO labeling as a necessary component of the consumer’s right to make informed decisions about food.

**General Information:**

Attachment Name	Attachment Link
Consumer protection act.pdf	<a href="#">Download</a>