

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

EFSA STATEMENT ON THE FATE OF RECOMBINANT DNA OR PROTEINS IN GM FEED

1. The attached statement was published by EFSA on 17 July and presents a review of the available information concerning the transfer of GM material (DNA and protein) from GM plant material from animal feed into farm animals and animal-derived food products. This review was undertaken because of questions being raised about the labelling of food products from animals that have eaten GM feed. These products are not currently required to be labelled to indicate that they are derived from a GM source.
2. EFSA concludes that there is no evidence of recombinant DNA or proteins being detected in tissues or food products derived from animals given GM feed. There are two reports of small fragments of Bt genes *cry1a(b)* and *cp4epsps* being detected in cows milk. However, the same sequences were found in organic milk samples and these results are attributed to contamination, as these gene sequences are found in soil bacteria.
3. EFSA points out that DNA and proteins are very likely to be digested before they are absorbed into the animal's circulation, but there is evidence that the absorption of DNA and protein fragments is a normal physiological process in animals and recognisable fragments of DNA from (non-GM) plants can be absorbed intact. DNA sequences from natural multicopy plant genes (e.g. chloroplast genes) have been detected in animal tissues but no traces of DNA from single copy genes have been found. These findings suggest that, while the absorption of recombinant DNA is unlikely, it could occur at a very low frequency.

**Secretariat
September 2007**

Annex attached:

Annex 1: EFSA statement on the fate of recombinant DNA or proteins in meat, milk and eggs from animals fed with GM feed (19 July 2007)

Available from:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificOpinionPublicationReport/efsa_locale-1178620753812_StatementsConclusions.htm

EFSA statement on the fate of recombinant DNA or proteins in meat,
milk and eggs from animals fed with GM feed
(19 July 2007)