

What are precision bred organisms?

Precision bred organisms (PBOs) are plants or animals where the genetic makeup of the organism has been altered using techniques of modern biotechnology (such as gene editing) in a precise way.

This page is part of the [Regulated products application guidance](#).

Precision bred organisms (PBOs) are plants or animals where the genetic makeup of the organism has been altered using techniques of modern biotechnology (such as gene editing) in a precise way. To qualify as a PBO, the changes to the organism must be those that could have also been achieved through traditional breeding methods.

Precision breeding does not include organisms that contain DNA that isn't present in the non-modified organism or in sexually compatible species. These organisms remain classified as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and regulated as such. You can find [guidance on applying for a food and feed marketing authorisation of a GMO](#) on our website.

Before a PBO can be used in food or feed and placed on the market in England, it must first be authorised.

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Whilst the [Genetic Technology \(Precision Breeding\) Act 2023](#) makes provision for precision bred animals, further secondary legislation is required before any gene edited animal can be granted precision bred status. It is therefore not possible to apply for the authorisation of the use of precision bred animals in food and feed.