

**Opinion of the European Food Safety Authority in accordance with
Articles 6 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 on
application EFSA-GMO-NL-2005-18**

**Application for the placing on the market of glufosinate tolerant genetically
modified soybean A2704-12 for food and feed uses from Bayer CropScience.**

(Question No. EFSA-Q-2005-174)

10 August 2007

Summary

This document provides an overall opinion of the European Food Safety Authority on genetically modified soybean A2704-12 in accordance with the requirements of Articles 6 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003.

The scope of this application is genetically modified soybean A2704-12 for food and feed uses¹, food and feed containing, consisting of or produced from soybean A2704-12. The scope does not include cultivation.

The Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms has carried out the scientific assessment of genetically modified soybean A2704-12 in accordance with Articles 6(6) and 18(6) of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 and considers that the GM soybean A2704-12 is unlikely to have any adverse effect on human and animal health or on the environment in the context of its intended uses.

The Community Reference Laboratory considers that the method validated as fit for the purpose of regulatory compliance. The certified reference materials of GM soybean A2704-12 can be accessed at the American Oil Chemist's Society (AOCS– USA).

The information presented for the Cartagena Protocol, the labelling proposal and the monitoring plan are in line with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003.

Under the terms of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003, the overall opinion fulfils the requirements of Articles 6 and 18 for the placing on the market of genetically modified soybean A2704-12.

¹ This does include GM soybean for import and processing as designated under part C of Directive 2001/18/EC.

Background

On 13 July 2005, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) received from the Dutch Competent Authority an application for authorisation of GM soybean A2704-12 (unique identifier ACS-GM005-3) submitted by Bayer CropScience within the framework of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed (reference EFSA-GMO-NL-2005-18).

The scope of this application is genetically modified soybean A2704-12 for food and feed uses², food and feed containing, consisting of or produced from soybean A2704-12. The scope does not include cultivation.

In accordance with Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003, EFSA informed the Member States and the European Commission and made the summary of the application publicly available on the EFSA website³ on 27 July 2005. EFSA initiated a completeness check of the application to check compliance with the requirements laid down in Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003. On 25 May 2005, the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) confirmed receipt of the detection method, samples and control samples in accordance with Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003. EFSA declared the application valid on 10 February 2006 and started the clock in accordance with Articles 6 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003.

From that date, EFSA has endeavoured to respect a time limit of 6 months in giving its overall opinion (Articles 6(1) and 18(1)). EFSA made the valid application available to Member States and the European Commission. Following the procedure laid down in Articles 6(4) and 18(4) of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003, EFSA consulted the Member States. In this context, the Member States risk assessment bodies, as well as the national competent authorities under Directive 2001/18/EC, were given three months after the date of receipt of the valid application (*i.e.* until 10 May 2006) within which to make their opinion known.

Making use of the provisions under Articles 6(2) and 18(2), EFSA requested additional information from the applicant and the clock was stopped from 14 February 2006 till 8 August 2007⁴.

The overall opinion on application EFSA-GMO-NL-2005-18 includes the scientific opinion of the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO Panel) together with the particulars required under Articles 6(5)(a-g) and 18(5)(a-g) of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003: i) the name and address of the applicant, ii) the designation of the food and its specification, iii) the information required under Annex II to the Cartagena Protocol, iv) the labelling proposal, v) the method for detection, validated by the Community Reference Laboratory, including sampling,

² This does include GM soybean for import and processing as designated under part C of Directive 2001/18/EC.

³ http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/gmo/gm_ff_applications/catindex_en.html

⁴ Request for additional information from EFSA-GMO Panel: stopped on 06 July 2007, kept stopped on 24 October 2006, accepted on 01 December 2006, stopped on 23 May 2007, accepted on 25 June 2007.

Request for additional information from EFSA-JRC: requested on 14 February 2006, accepted on 15 May 2006, requested on 22 December 2006, accepted on 06 February 2007.

Request for additional information from EFSA-certified reference materials: requested on 08 June 2007, accepted on 08 August 2007.

identification of the transformation event in the food-feed and/or foods-feeds produced from it, vi) an indication of where appropriate reference materials can be accessed, vii) the monitoring plan and viii) Member States' comments submitted during the three-month consultation period.

Applicant

The application was submitted by
Bayer CropScience GmbH
Industriepark Höchst, K 607
D-65926 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Designation and specification of the product

The scope of this application is genetically modified soybean A2704-12 for food and feed uses⁵, food and feed containing, consisting of or produced from soybean A2704-12. The scope does not include cultivation.

Genetically modified soybean A2704-12 expresses the phosphinothricin acetyl-transferase (PAT) enzyme to confer tolerance to glufosinate-containing herbicides.

Scientific opinion of the GMO Panel

The GMO Panel has carried out the scientific assessment of the genetically modified soybean in accordance with Articles 6(6) and 18(6) of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 and adopted its scientific opinion on 3rd July 2007. The GMO Panel considered all comments submitted by Member State bodies and where deemed necessary, requested additional information from the applicant before finalising its scientific assessment. The GMO Panel concluded that the information available for GM soybean A2704-12 addresses the scientific comments raised by the Member States and considered that GM soybean A2704-12 is unlikely to have any adverse effect on human and animal health or the environment in the context of its intended uses (Annex A).

Cartagena Protocol

The information presented in the application and as required under Annex II of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is in line with the scientific opinion of the GMO Panel (Annex B).

Labelling

The labelling proposal provided in the application is in line with the requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003. On the basis of the scientific opinion of the GMO Panel that GM soybean A2704-12 is compositionally and phenotypically equivalent to its non-genetically modified soybean except for the introduced traits, EFSA is of the opinion that there is no need for a specific labelling in accordance with Articles 13(2)(a) and 25(2)(c) (Annex C).

⁵ This does include GM soybean for import and processing as designated under part C of Directive 2001/18/EC

Method for detection

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) as Community Reference Laboratory for the GM Food and Feed has carried out a collaborative study to assess the performance of a quantitative event-specific method to detect and quantify the A2704-12 transformation event in soybean DNA. The reports were published on 14 May 2007. The Community Reference Laboratory considers that the method is applicable to the control samples provided in accordance with the requirements of Annex I-2.C.2 to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 641/2004 (Annexes D1, D2, D3).

Certified reference materials

The certified reference materials of genetically modified soybean A2704-12 can be accessed at American Oil Chemist's Society (AOCS- USA). The report was published on 10 August 2007 (Annexes E1, E2, E3, E4).

Post market environmental monitoring

The GMO Panel evaluated the environmental monitoring plan proposed by the applicant. The GMO Panel considered that the monitoring plan provided by the applicant is in line with the intended uses for the GMO (Annex F).

Member States' Comments

In line with the procedure⁶ adopted by EFSA, the GMO Panel has addressed the comments submitted by the Member States during the three-month consultation period (Annex G).

List of annexes:

Annex A:	Scientific opinion of the GMO Panel
Annex B:	Cartagena Protocol
Annex C:	Labelling
Annex D1:	Validation report (soybean A2704-12)
Annex D2:	Validated method (soybean A2704-12)
Annex D3:	Sampling and extraction (soybean A2704-12)
Annexes E1-E4:	Certified reference materials report(s)
Annex F:	Monitoring plan
Annex G:	Member States' comments

⁶ EFSA Strategy document

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/etc/medialib/efsa/science/gmo/109.Par.0010.File.dat/gmo_actionplan1.pdf