

GUIDELINES
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION IN TERMS OF THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS ACT, 1997
(Regulation 6)

Purpose of the notification?

- To inform the public that the applicant is applying for permission to conduct a certain activity.
- To request the public to submit comments or objections to the application made

When is a notification required?

- For any proposed trial or general release, including fast track trial releases
- The Executive Council determined in a meeting on 06/03/03 that public notifications are also required for commodity clearance applications.

Where must the notification be published?

- A standard notice in the printed media
- At least 3 newspapers circulating in *each* area in the proposed release will take place
- Size: Minimum A5 (if permitted by the printed media involved)
- Font: Arial 10 (if permitted by the printed media involved)

What must the notice contain?

- Full name and address of the applicant
- Objective of the trial
- A full description of the genetically modified organism (at least the following):
 - Name of the donor organism
 - Name of the recipient organism
 - Gene of interest (not construct)
 - Marker genes
 - Desired result of the genetic modification
 - Variety/ies involved (also if it is white or yellow maize – in the case of maize)
- Description of the proposed trial release (at least the following):
 - Area of the release (the specific region (e.g. district of town) and size of the release site)
 - Information on the receiving environment (humans, animals, soil, micro-organisms, plants, air, etc.)
 - Description of the actual site, including barriers and surrounding environment (trial set-up, etc.)
 - Explanation of what will happen to the plants/seeds/etc. upon completion of the trial
- Request that interested parties submit comments or objections, in connection with the intended release, to the Registrar at the address below, within 30 days after the date of the notification:

Registrar: Genetically Modified Organisms
Private Bag X973
Pretoria
0001
Fax: 012 319 6329

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How long will the Registrar wait for input from the public?

- The Registrar will accept comments/objections for at least 30 days from publication of the notice, unless a longer period is indicated in the notice.
- In the event that someone from the public wish to comment after the 30-day time period has expired, the individual/entity must obtain written authorisation from the applicant to submit comments at a later stage. Approval from the applicant must be attached to the input.

What will happen to the input received by the Registrar?

- The Registrar acknowledges receipt of all comments or objections
- The Registrar forwards all comments/objections to the Executive Council for inclusion in their deliberations
- If the Registrar receives comments/objections that the Council is unable to address, the comments/objections will be forwarded to the applicant for clarification before the Registrar responds to the entity raising the comment/objection.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- These are only guidelines, it remains the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the notice adheres to the requirements of the GMO Act.
- Kindly take note that you need to submit a copy of the notice and proof (newspaper clippings) with your application in order for the application to be processed.
- Your application will not be processed unless the information requested above has been received.
- This requirement for public notification is only in terms of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (Act No. 15 of 1997). It does not preclude the applicant from any other requirements for public notification within the legislative frameworks of SA.