

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE
ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Seventh Session

Chiba, Japan, 24 – 28 September 2007

COMMENTS FROM EC

Detailed comments of the EC on SECTION 3 – GUIDANCE ON DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING

8. In order for Codex Members to use this Annex, it is essential that they have access to requisite data and information.

9. Codex Members shall make available to a **publicly available** central database (to be maintained by FAO) information on recombinant-DNA plants authorized in accordance with the Codex Plant Guideline This information

shall be presented in accordance with the following format:

a. name of product applicant

b. summary of application

c. country of authorization

d. date of authorization

e. scope of authorization

f. unique identifier

f'. when a notification has been made for the recombinant-DNA plant to the Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol and/or the Biotech Product database of OECD, reference to such notification(s)

g. summary of the safety assessment ~~by competent authority(s)~~ structured following the headings of the Codex Plant Guideline and focussing on the areas of specific relevance and interest to the risk assessor,

g'. either a validated protocol for an event-specific detection method, suitable for low level situations, and to appropriate (either viable or non-viable) reference material or information on where these can be secured¹, and

h. contact details of the competent authority(s) responsible for the safety assessment and the product applicant.

10. This process shall facilitate rapid access by importing Codex Member countries to additional information relevant to the assessment of food safety considerations arising from low-level presence of recombinant-DNA plant material in foods in accordance with this Annex.

11. The authorizing Codex Member shall make available complementary information to other Codex Members on ~~the outcome of~~ its safety assessment in accordance with the Codex Plant Guideline, in conformity with its regulatory/legal framework.

12. The product applicant shall ~~make all reasonable efforts to~~ provide further information and clarification as necessary to allow the assessment according to this Annex to proceed, ~~and on a validated protocol for an event-specific detection method, suitable for low level situations, and to appropriate reference material, as well as a validated protocol for an event specific or trait specific detection method, as specified by the Codex Member, and nonviable reference materials., whilst respecting~~ This is without prejudice of legitimate concerns to safeguard the confidentiality of commercial and industrial information.

13. As appropriate, new scientific information relevant to the conclusions of the food safety assessment conducted in accordance with the Codex Plant Guideline by the authorizing country should be made available

¹ [This information may also be provided by the product applicant.](#)