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Feeds containing GE ingredients

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Oilseeds and Products

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Recently, the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) at the Ministry of Agriculture announced several cases of imported animal feeds and feed supplements that had not properly registered the GE (genetically engineered) soybean content in the feed. The Government of Russia requires that GE content of feeds be notified as a part of the feed registration process. In two cases, VPSS temporarily suspended imports of the product. None of the feeds were of U.S. origin.

General Information:

On September 25 and 28, the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) at the Ministry of Agriculture posted several notifications on finding GE lines of soybeans in products (feeds and milk replacer) that were imported to the Russian Federation from three enterprises (one German, one Dutch and one Austrian). According to VPSS, the GE lines of soybeans were not registered as ingredients in these products in violation of the Russian requirements for registration of feeds containing GE lines. In two cases VPSS, as said in the notifications, temporarily suspended imports of products from these enterprises.

It should be noted that if the feeds had been properly registered with documentation concerning the GE soybean lines, the shipments would have been allowed entry, assuming other regulatory requirements were met.

FAS/Moscow reported on the Russian requirements for registration of GE feeds in the Biotech Annual Reports, including the recent one [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual 2015](#), and in the recent FAIRS report [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards 11-28-2014.pdf](#)

Russian requirements for feeds containing GE lines are the following¹:

Begin citation:

Registration for Feed Use

Plant-origin feed imports no longer require a veterinary certificate but still require a letter stating that the feed is biotech free. Feed may be classified as biotech-free if presence of each non-registered biotech line in feed does not exceed 0.5 percent and if the presence of each registered biotech line in the feed does not exceed 0.9 percent. In this case, “registered” refers to products registered in Russia and “non-registered” refers to products not registered in Russia. The presence of genetic alterations in feed components is calculated separately and not comprehensively. For example, if two registered components in feed contain 0.6 percent of genetic alterations in each, then the feed is considered to be non-biotech, although together the sum is 1.2 percent. The pre-export identification of feed as non-GMO is not required. It is up to the producer/exporter to declare the feed as non-GMO, but VPSS regardless examines the products for the presence of GE components.

If the feed contains GE ingredients, and is not declared as biotech free, the shipment must include a copy of the certificate indicating that the biotech components in the feed are registered with the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS). The imports must also have a phytosanitary certificate, although this requirement is unrelated to biotechnology. Any biotech components in feed must be appropriately registered. Presence of each non-registered biotech line shall not exceed 0.5 percent. The Custom Union’s Technical Regulation on Feed has not been adopted yet, but the draft has the same 0.5 percent norm of non-registered biotech lines as in the current regulations. However, the adopted Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain stipulates that feed grain/oilseeds is considered non-GMO if the presence of each non-registered biotech lines does not exceed 0.9 percent. The Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain came into to force on July 1, 2013.

End citation.

Thus, there are discrepancies between the Customs Union’s TR on Safety of Grain (that also includes

¹ From [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual 2015](#)

oilseeds) and the Russian requirement concerning the threshold for “non-registered” lines. FAS/Moscow is not aware of how this discrepancy will be resolved in the coming CU’s technical regulation on feeds. However, the threshold for GE lines of soybeans that are registered in Russia is 0.9 percent.