Notification SCBD/BS/CG/MPM/DA/85327

Submission of the information requested in the decision on Contained Use (Article 6)

The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms regulates the state management of GMOs in a broad sense while other domestic orders fully implement the EU-Directives. The EU-Regulations are directly applicable in Lithuanian legislation.

According to the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms the Ministry of Environment is a Competent Authority for Directive 2009/41/EC on the contained use of GMMs. The GMO Experts Committee was established by the Order on Genetically Modified Organisms Experts Committee and consists of 11 scientists with different scientific background (microbiology, genetics, medicine, biochemistry zoology, veterinary science, biotechnology, agronomy, molecular biology). They analyze the report of risk assessment prepared by the notifier and makes scientific proposals and conclusions to the Competent Authority. The GMO Steering Committee was established by the Order on Genetically Modified Organisms Steering Committee and is a political advisory body for the development and enforcement of national regulatory system with respect to biosafety issues including contained use of GMMs and GMOs. This Committee consists of 21 members appointed by relevant state authorities (e.g., The Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Agriculture, State Food and Veterinary Service), the subordinated organizations, national biotech industry, non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions.

Vilnius Regional Environmental Protection Department under the Ministry of Environment is responsible for inspection of contained use of GMMs and GMOs. The inspections were conducted by specialized inspector.

Notification and approval system, classification (Class 1, 2, 3 and 4) of contained uses and containment measures and other safety provisions for safety classes are determined in the Order on Regulation on Contained Use of Genetically Modified Micro-organisms. Criteria establishing the safety of GMMs for human health and the environment are provided in the Order on Criteria for Genetically Modified Micro-organisms Classification in conformity to Directive 2009/41/EC.

The Ministry of Environment has published information about contained use of GMMs and GMOs to the public through the Competent Authority’s Web Site http://gmo.am.lt, preserving confidentiality rights and intellectual property according the Order on Public Information and Participation and the Order on Genetically Modified Organisms Information System. The main tasks of the national GMO information system are to store, process and guarantee access to any available data about GMM and GMO, excluding confidential information.

According to the Order on Regulation on Contained Use of Genetically Modified Microorganisms, the notifier has to provide emergency plan, information concerning the waste management, including the amount and type of waste, the methods of inactivation and the final form of the waste and destination. In all cases, all types of GMMs and GMOs had to be inactivated prior to disposal. Waste was mainly inactivated through thermal (autoclaving) or chemical means (e.g. sodium hypochlorite). In case of GM-vertebrates, their remains were transported to waste treatment facility for inactivation under the EU and national legislation.

There is facility authorized under the EU and national legislation to handle veterinary and environmental waste including GM-vertebrates. Transportation was arranged by the waste treatment company.

Currently there are registered 14 premises for contained use and all of them for class 1. No accidents were reported.

Seminar “GMM/GMO contained use: notifications, risk assessment and control“ for the notifiers and users, members of GMO Expert and GMO Steering Committees, State Institutions and NGOs will be organized on the 4th of May 2016.