New Zealand thanks the Secretariat for the invitation to provide information regarding New Zealand’s capacity and needs in the detection and identification of living modified organisms, including a list of laboratories and their specific activities (refer Notification 2017-141).

Consignments of specific seed and nursery stock species must be tested for the presence of genetic modification at one of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) approved laboratories before being imported. MPI approved laboratories are located outside New Zealand. All information about which species are currently required to be tested, approved laboratories, their location and also further information about current requirements in place can be found on the MPI web site: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/plants/seeds-for-sowing/genetically-modified-seeds-and-nursery-stock/>

MPI approved laboratories are ISO 17025-accredited independent laboratories that as part of their quality system procedures are required to be updated and capable of detecting all GMO events that have been commercially released. Their specific activities can be found in their own website. Their web address is also located in the web link provided above. These laboratories are audited by the Senior Adviser responsible for the GM compliance every 5 years with the purpose to ensure that the procedures in the quality manual, related to quality systems, and the laboratory’s methods manual, related to testing activities, are being followed and to determine the effectiveness of the laboratory’s procedures in controlling the quality of the data reported.