



Press Brief

Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms

Background

The Protocol requires Parties to take measures to ensure that living modified organisms (LMOs) being moved from one country to another are safely transported, handled and packaged.

The Protocol and some COP-MOP decisions set specific requirements for the identification of LMOs in shipments moved between countries. The Protocol also provides for the possible development of standards on the identification, handling, packaging and transport of LMOs.

What has been done?

At its third meeting, the COP-MOP in decision BS-III/10 agreed on the detailed requirements for documentation accompanying living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMOs-FFP). Parties were requested and other Governments were invited to submit to the Secretariat information on the experience gained with the implementation of the above decision for consideration at the present meeting.

At its fourth meeting, the COP-MOP requested the Secretariat to organize an online forum to identify the relevant standards with regard to handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms; identify where gaps exist and suggest ways to fill the gaps. The online forum was held in 2009. A total of 104 messages were posted.



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What is expected at COP-MOP 5?

At this meeting, the Parties are expected to, among other things:

- Review and assess the experience gained with the use of a commercial invoice or other document required by domestic regulatory and/or administrative frameworks, as documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP with a view to further harmonization of a documentation format to fulfil specific identification requirements, including consideration of the need for a stand-alone document.
- Examine capacity-building efforts in developing countries related to the implementation of requirements for the documentation and identification of LMOs.
- Review the outcomes of the online forum on standards for shipments of LMOs and decide on any future actions to be taken. These actions might include calling for greater cooperation with other standard-setting bodies, establishing a technical experts group to develop standards under the Protocol or inviting further exchange of information and experience through the Biosafety Clearing-House and regional workshops.

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