

Nestlé position on the published European GMO legislation

Background

In October 2003, the 2 European regulations on GMO labelling and traceability were published.

Currently, foods sold in the EU that contain genetically modified (GM) material have to be labelled. The new regulations will extend the current labelling requirements to ingredients produced from GMOs, but not containing GM material. They will also introduce specific traceability as well as labelling requirements for feed products.

The labelling provisions will apply on April 18th 2004 and the traceability provisions on January 18th.

Nestlé response

The new legislation does not impact the labelling of Nestlé products in Europe, since, in response to the European consumer preferences, our ingredients are from non-GMO origin, and traceability and quality systems are already in place.

Consumer confidence is essential to us, and is supported by having access to information. Nestlé's Consumer Services are well equipped to provide this access in each country and thus are the first source of information for Nestlé products.

Nestlé's position on GMO remains unchanged. Regarding safety, WHO¹, FAO², OECD³ and numerous independent scientific bodies have concluded that currently approved GM crops and ingredients derived thereof, are safe for use in food. Nestlé concurs with their shared opinion that these crops are as safe as their traditional counterparts.

Vevey, December 2003

¹ World Health Organization

² Food and Agriculture Organization

³ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development