

GMO(CU) UK Competent Authority Meetings			GMOUKCA
Type of Paper:	Note of meeting	TRIM (HSE use only)	2017/354896
Meeting Date:	1 August 2017	Open Govt. Status:	Open
Exemptions:			

**Note of meeting held on 1 August 2017
Nobel House, London/ via telecom**

Representatives of the UK Competent Authority (UKCA) for Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations

Welcome and apologies

1. This was the fourth meeting of representatives of the UK Competent Authority (UKCA) since completion of the consolidation of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) 2014 Regulations (2014 Regulations). The purpose was to discuss working arrangements and communications within the UKCA, and provide updates on a number of issues.
2. Representatives attended from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government (SG), Welsh Government (WG), Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA), HSE (Northern Ireland) (HSENI) and HSE Legal Adviser, Government Legal Department.

Minutes from Previous Meeting on 8 December 2016

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2016 had been previously circulated. They were agreed and signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

Biological Agents Policy – update on staffing and recruitment

4. An update was given on recent staff changes in HSE.

GMO (CU) 2014 – update on post implementation review

5. Members were advised that HSE would be commencing a review of the GMO (Contained Use) Regulations 2014 through the formal EU Commission review process which is expected to start again in the autumn. HSE will use this approach to consider the implementation of the regulations.

Operational Feedback on GMO Notifications

6. An overview of the notifications for GMOs was given for the period January – June 2017. The number of notifications, notifier and notification types were similar to those for the same period in 2016. Requests for additional information were lower by 12%. Members were asked to share any informal feedback with HSE on the nature of the information provided.

Notifications Project – Outcomes

7. A presentation was given about HSE's new approach for assessing notifications, to enable resources to be targeted more effectively, reduce complexity with the process and improve quality assurance. The new system which is currently in Phase 1 was introduced on 3 July. New assessment record templates had also been developed and were currently being evaluated. Administrative arrangements were also being reviewed.

Feedback from SACGM Meeting 5 July

8. An update paper had been provided to members prior to the meeting. Of particular interest was the appointment of four new members to the SACGM, as experts. HSE's Chief Scientific Adviser had attended and provided very positive feedback on many aspects of the meeting.

International EU Development

9. An oral update was provided on two meetings that HSE had attended. The first was a meeting of a working group on GMO/Medicine legislation set up by the European Commission to review the interplay between GMO legislation (contained use and deliberate release) and medicines legislation in Europe.
10. The second meeting was organised by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands earlier this year to discuss potential and ongoing gene drive work in a number of European countries. A small group of volunteers (including HSE) had been set up to develop guidance on conducting risk assessments for gene drive work in a contained use context.
11. Reports of both meetings were offered to members.

Three year report to the Commission on GMO(CU)Directive – draft questionnaire

12. Members were advised that a draft questionnaire had been received from the Commission for the next three year report to the Commission by member states for the Contained Use of GMMs for 2014-17. HSE would send the draft questionnaire, an analysis of the changes and the previous report (for comparison) to members after the meeting. Comments were required by the end of August.

Contact list – updates

13. Members were invited to provide any changes to the contact list.

Any other business

14. No items were raised.

Date of next meeting

15. To be arranged.