

GMO(CU) UK Competent Authority Meetings			GMOUKCA/P1/2016
Type of Paper:	Note of meeting	TRIM (HSE use only)	2017/9187
Meeting Date:	8 December 2016	Open Govt. Status:	Open
Exemptions:			

**Note of meeting held on 8 December 2016  
UCL, London/ via telecom**

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

**Welcome and apologies**

1. This was the third 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), Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA), HSE (Northern Ireland) (HSENI) and the Welsh Government (WG).

**Notes and Actions from previous meeting**

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 had been previously circulated and were agreed.

**Operational Feedback on GMO Notifications**

4. An overview was provided on the number of notifications by region received by HSE during the first half of the financial year (April to September 2016). The figures were broken down by class of activity, region, types of notifier and requests for additional information. The use of pie charts broke down the information further into Class 2 & 3 notification types, pathogen studies and viral vectors. There was no clear trend of numbers increasing compared with the overall number of notifications received in 2014/15 (192). The Competent Authority had assessed all notifications within statutory timescales.

**Feedback from meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Genetic Modification (SACGM)**

5. The SACGM is a scientific committee which provides technical and scientific advice to HSE and Defra Ministers and their equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
6. Feedback from the most recent meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 was provided. There had been discussion on a range of technical matters and emerging technologies, horizon scanning, the guidance review and sector plans. Members were advised that the 2016 SACGM Annual Report should be available as a draft by Spring 2017.

7. Recruitment of new committee members had continued in order to replace those who had exceeded their 10 year maximum terms and to ensure the Committee retained the appropriate expertise to deal with emerging technologies.
8. Members were reminded of an open invitation to anyone from UKCA to attend the SACGM meetings.

### **Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2014 – Post Implementation Review (PIR)**

9. Progress was provided on the PIR for the 2014 Regulations. The review must be completed by October 2019. The scope of the review is to assess whether:
  - the regulations achieved the intended purpose (ie consolidation of the 2000 regulations and the three amending regulations 2002, 2005 and 2010);
  - the regulations are fit for purpose or if improvements can be made;
  - there have been any unintended consequences.
10. Members were updated on the work undertaken during the past year. Stakeholder engagement will be a key area of work for 2017/18 and will take place through a variety of approaches.

### **International Development**

11. Members were advised that a number of international developments were likely to impact on the regulation of GMOs. The first meeting of the European Commission working group for the contained use directive was planned for 9 December. A report of the meeting would be circulated.
12. A conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COPXIII) would be taking place in Cancun in Mexico in December 2017. Defra would be circulating a report from the meeting, which includes discussion of GMOs and synthetic biology.

### **Contact List – update**

13. A member's contact list had previously been circulated. Members were asked to send any changes to the list to HSE so that it could be updated.

### **Date of next meeting**

14. The proposed date for the next meeting of this group is 22 November 2017, although a separate date may be arranged for a bi-annual meeting, if considered necessary.

### **Any other business**

15. There were no items.

**6 March 2017**