

***Low Level Presence of Transgenic Plants
in Seed and Grain Commodities:
Environmental Risk/Safety Assessment,
and Availability and Use of Information***

BRS Stakeholder Meeting

November 20, 2013

Sally McCammon, Ph.D.



**Biotechnology Regulatory Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

OECD Working Group

- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) :
 - 34 industrialized countries
 - Coordinate and harmonize policies
 - Respond to international issues
- OECD's Working Group (WG) on the Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology
 - Develops technical documents that facilitate environmental risk/safety assessment of transgenic organisms, especially plants



Scope of the WG's LLP Document

“...low level presence situations where seed contains low levels of transgenic seed that have been reviewed for environmental risk/safety and received authorization for commercial cultivation (unconfined release) in one or more countries but not in the country of import.”

- Not research material
- Not unidentified events

LLP and Trade

A close-up photograph of several ears of yellow corn cobs, showing the individual kernels in detail. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellow, suggesting a field of corn.

- Seed in international trade is a multi-billion dollar business
 - Occurrences of LLP in seed can be a threat to the economies of countries
 - Seed industries
 - Compliance costs
 - LLP can impact local food supplies
- Document captures experience of many countries in dealing with LLP in seed

OECD and LLP



- Document provides guidance
 - Regulators can find information to do a risk assessment in LLP situation
 - How to find relevant information
- Results of risk assessment inform mitigation measures and provide flexibility to bring situation back into compliance
- Countries can institute pro-active measures to deal with LLP

Codex Alimentarius Standard

- Codex Plant Guideline- an LLP annex dealing with food safety
- OECD document complements the Codex Alimentarius standard



LLP Document Released

- **September 18, 2013**-declassification and public release

<http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/biotrack/latestdocuments/>



34 Member Countries of OECD

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Luxembourg
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States
- European Commission*



Working Group Observers

■ Formal

- Argentina
- Russia
- OECD Business and Industry Advisory Committee

• Ad hoc

- Brazil
- China
- India
- Philippines
- South Africa
- International Organizations



Questions?

???

