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# APHIS Announces Final Regulatory Status Review Guide

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WASHINGTON, December 22, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is posting its [final Regulatory Status Review \(RSR\) guide](#). It details the information requirements and process for submitting a RSR request under the revised biotechnology regulations at 7 CFR part 340.

Previously, developers submitted a petition to APHIS requesting deregulation of a modified organism if sufficient information was available to determine whether the organism was unlikely to pose a plant pest risk. Organisms that are unlikely to pose a plant pest risk are not subject to APHIS’ biotechnology regulations. APHIS discontinued the petition process on October 1, 2021.

Under the revised regulations, developers may request a permit and/or a regulatory status review of a plant developed using genetic engineering that the Agency has not previously reviewed. Developers may submit a request for a regulatory status review when they believe a modified plant is not subject to regulation. We review the modified plant and considers whether it might pose an increased plant pest risk

compared to a nonregulated plant. If our review finds a plant is unlikely to pose an increased plant pest risk relative to the comparator plant, we will post the request, our response letter, and the plant, trait, and a general description of the Mechanism of Action (MOA) on our website. The posting of plant, trait, and MOA combinations provides a growing range of modifications that are eligible for exemption from regulation. Alternatively, if we are unable to make such a finding, the modified plant is subject to regulation.

If you have additional questions regarding RSR requests, please contact us at [RSRrequests@usda.gov](mailto:RSRrequests@usda.gov).

- [Regulatory Status Review Guide](#)
- [Response to Comments: RSR Guide](#)
- [Guidance and Resources Biotechnology](#)

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