

4.17 Malaysia



4.17.1 Biosafety Act (2007)

The Act establishes a National Biosafety Board to regulate the release, importation, exportation and contained use of LMOs, and the release of products of such organisms with the objective of protecting human, plant and animal health, environment and biological diversity. The Act is to be read together with any other written law relating to import and export, human, plant and animal health, environment and biological diversity.

The Act empowers the National Biosafety Board to appoint various committees and subcommittees for its various functions. Part III of the Act deals with approval for release and import of LMOs. Part IV deals with the notification for export, contained use and import for contained use of LMOs. Reporting requirements for risk assessment and risk management and emergency action plans are covered under Part V of the Act. An enforcement officer is also appointed under the Act to carry out investigations for its proper enforcement. The Act also requires that all LMOs, items containing LMOs and products of such organisms to be labeled in the prescribed manner.

4.17.2 National Guidelines for the Release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the Environment (2007) (Draft)

The Guidelines addresses the need for mechanisms of risk assessment and management, a need for international exchange of information in particular between neighboring countries with regards to release of GMOs and capacity building in order to adequately address safety in genetic modification research. It provides a more defined procedure for risk assessment on the release of GMOs into the environment and also takes into account factors for international harmonization of the existing biosafety Guidelines.

The Guidelines covers GMOs at all stages of research, development, use, release and placing on the market. It covers, but is not limited to, GM plants, animals (including for example, insects, mollusks and fish) and microorganisms and products consisting of or containing GMOs. It also covers safety issues regarding agriculture, public health, the environment and transboundary issues pertaining to release of GMOs and products containing, or consisting of GMOs.

Source:

1. *Release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the Environment- full text.* (Available on http://www.cbi.pku.edu.cn/mirror/binas/Regulations/full_regs/malaysia/malgmo.html); accessed on 11 February, 2008).
2. *Laws of Malaysia, Biosafety Act 2007 (Act 678) Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad, Kuala Lumpur, p 56.*
3. *Kangayatkarasu Nagulendran, Principal Assistant Secretary, Conservation and Environmental Management, Division Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Putrajaya, Malaysia, Email: nagu@nre.gov.my. (Personal Communication)*