



2 May 2023

(23-3077)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Notifying Member: UNITED KINGDOM If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Food Standards Agency
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Precision bred animals and plants, and food and feed produced from precision bred animals and plants
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: ☒ All trading partners ☐ Specific regions or countries:
5.	Title of the notified document: Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill. Language(s): English. Number of pages: https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3167/publications
6.	Description of content: The primary objective of the Bill is to establish a framework for a new, proportionate, regulatory regime for plants and animals that are produced using modern biotechnologies which could have resulted from traditional breeding or natural processes ('precision bred plants and animals'), and the food and feed products produced from these. These provisions will only take practical effect once regulations are made under the delegated powers in the Bill setting out the detail of the new regulatory regime. Further notifications will be made prior to these measures coming into effect. The territorial extent of the Bill is England only, however as a result of the operation of existing UK legislation (the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020) which are produced in or imported into England are able to be marketed in Scotland and Wales, with specific arrangements applying for Northern Ireland. The key purposes of this new primary legislation are to: 1. Enable regulations to establish a framework for a new science-based authorisation process for food and feed products produced from precision bred plants and animals; 2. Remove precision bred plants and animals produced through precision breeding technologies from the existing regulatory requirements applicable to release into the environment and marketing of GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms); this will be phased, first plants, followed by animals at a later date; 3. Introduce two new notification systems for product developers to inform Defra of the release of precision bred plants and animals for both research and marketing purposes in England. The information collected will be published on a public register on GOV.UK; 4. Establish a framework for a proportionate regulatory system for precision bred vertebrate animals, to ensure animal health and welfare is safeguarded. We will not be introducing changes to the regulations for precision bred animals until this system is in place.

7.	Objective and rationale: ☒ food safety, ☒ animal health, ☒ plant protection, ☐ protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, ☐ protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: ☐ Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): ☐ World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): ☐ International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): ☒ None Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:
9.	Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: • A guidance document on the market authorisation procedure for animal welfare is available here: AnnexAAnimalsPolicyUpdateOctober22.pdf (parliament.uk) • A guidance document on the Pre-market authorisation process for precision bred food and feed is available here: FSAPremarketAuthorisationFactSheet20102022.pdf (parliament.uk) • The Government response to the public consultation is available here: Genetic technologies regulation: government response - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10.	Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): 23 March 2023 Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 24 March 2023
11.	Proposed date of entry into force: ☐ Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 23 March 2023 ☐ Trade facilitating measure
12.	Final date for comments: ☒ Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 1 July 2023 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: ☒ National Notification Authority, ☒ National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: UK SPS Contact Point, Defra, Nobel House, London SW1P 3JR E-mail: UKSPS@defra.gov.uk
13.	Text(s) available from: ☒ National Notification Authority, ☒ National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: UK SPS Contact Point, Defra, Nobel House, London SW1P 3JR E-mail: UKSPS@defra.gov.uk