



Requirements to Sell, Manufacture or Commercialize Transgenics, Insecticides, Pesticides, Herbicides and Rodenticides

PHILIPPINES

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1. **Is permission required from the government in order to plant, commercialize, import or export products that have been genetically modified or engineered ("GMOs")?**

Yes, a license is required to allow an entity to import, export, commercialize or propagate genetically modified or engineered products.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is the government regulatory agency tasked to regulate GMO activities. Said agency issues four kinds of permits for all genetically engineered crops.

2. **Is local presence required in order to be considered a duly registered distributor where the GMO is going to be imported and sold?**

No. Local presence is not required. Anyone is allowed to import GMOs provided the said commodities are already approved by the required agencies in the Philippines as listed in the BPI approval registry.

Should the product not be in the BPI approval registry, the importer has to provide a declaration signed by an accredited laboratory or company from the country of origin. The BPI shall then determine if further tests should be conducted in the Philippines.

3. **Which governmental authorities are involved in the determination of the regulations involving GMOs (for example, food and agriculture, environmental, health, safety)?**

The Bureau of Plant Industry, under the Department of Agriculture (DA), is the lead and single entry point of GMO applications and the agency responsible for conducting environmental risk assessments. The BPI is also in charge of issuing all the abovementioned permits.

Other regulatory agencies under the DA involved are the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) for feed safety and the Bureau of Agriculture, Fisheries and Product Standards (BAFS) and the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority (FPA).

4. **Are local performance and/or environmental safety studies required to obtain the permit to plant, commercialize, import or export GMOs, or are studies carried out in the country of origin of the GMO where it has already been certified, valid or accepted?**

Accredited studies carried out in the country of origin are required to be submitted with the application for registration of a GMO product currently not in the BPI registry.

In addition to such requirement, greenhouse/laboratory experiments as well as limited or multi location field trials have to be conducted locally, depending on the sufficiency of data provided by the importer/exporter/distributor of the specific GMO product, as well as the credibility of the studies.

5. **Does the permission granted by the Government authorize the consumption of GMOs by human beings? Are there specific rules for the consumption of GMOs?**

Yes. After the required satisfactory risk assessment processes of specific GMOs by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel members, and respective regulatory agencies under the Department of Agriculture as mentioned above, the BPI shall then issue a biosafety permit for direct use as food and feed or for processing.

There are no specific rules for the consumption of GMOS.

6. **Is governmental permission required for foreign companies to commercialize, import or export pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides and/or their consumables?**

Yes, All commercial applicators of pesticides shall apply for a license, in a form to be supplied by the FPA, and shall obtain a commercial applicator's license. The following are the different types of licenses available for pesticide companies and other handlers: Pesticide Manufacturer/Formulator License, Pesticide Repacker License, Pesticide Importer/Trader/Indentor License, Pesticide Distributor License, License for Pesticide Supplier's Local Representative, Pesticide Dealer's License.

7. **Is local presence required in order to be a registered or authorized distributor where the pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides and/or their consumables are going to be imported and sold?**

Foreign-owned corporations desiring to sell pesticides and other agricultural chemicals may apply and become a licensed dealer of pesticides. However, such foreign corporations should be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and licensed to do business in the country. A foreign company, or a company not licensed to do business in the country may also distribute pesticides in the Philippines through a local subsidiary.



8. Which governmental authorities are involved in the determination of the environmental health and safety of pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides?

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) is the government agency exercising control over pesticides.

9. Are local performance and/or environmental safety studies required to obtain the authorization to market pesticides, plaguicides, rodenticides, insecticides, or are studies carried out in the country of origin of the products, valid or accepted?

In the application for registration of pesticides, the FPA accepts studies carried out in the country of origin of the products. However, it has the discretion to conduct its own independent local testing especially in cases where in the pesticide's country of origin has a different climate from the Philippines.

Should the applicant decide to avail of local testing, it must choose from a list of accredited researchers from the FPA.

10. Is a prescription by a qualified professional required in the herbicides commercialization? If the answer is "YES", what is the professional that grants such prescription?

No, it is not required.