



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

**VENEZUELA
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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. Special legislation in force in Venezuela requires that GMOs must be genetically evaluated and approved by the Venezuelan "National Institute of Seeds and Animal Reproduction Materials" before such GMOs can be planted, used, produced or commercialized in the country.

Additionally, a certification of biological innocuousness of the GMO shall be obtained from the Ministry of Environment.

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

Yes, local presence is required..

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

The Ministry of Nutrition, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Institute of Agricultural Health (INSAI for its Spanish acronym), and the "National Institute of Seeds and Animal Reproduction Materials.

- 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?**

Foreign performance and environmental safety studies are accepted. Nevertheless, seeds, animal reproduction materials and biological supplies, must be genetically evaluated by the local authority prior to its production, release, commercialization or any other use.

- 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?**

Nourishment requires a permit different to that required for seeds, animal reproduction materials and biological supplies. The current legislation provides that further special laws and sub-legal regulations may regulate the import, distribution, commercialization and consumption of GMOs, nevertheless; so far no special rules have been issued on this regard. Therefore, the general rules applicable to the consumption of nourishment are applicable to GMOs.

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

Yes, it is a requirement to register with the Ministry of Agriculture. Additionally, the product itself must also be registered with the National Institute of Agricultural Health (INSAI)

- 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?**

Yes, local presence is required.

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

The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, The Ministry of Agriculture, and the National Institute of Agricultural Health (INSAI) and the Technical Commission on Pesticides, which are technical authorities affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

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?**

Foreign performance and environmental studies are accepted. Nevertheless, the local authority must evaluate samples of the product in order to verify the product's ingredients and its proportions.

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?**

The general rules on pesticides provide that pesticides classified as "restricted use" shall only be commercialized under prescription by a qualified professional, under his supervision and responsibility. The rules do not specify what is the professional that grants such prescription. Nevertheless, the technical rules for the control of pesticides of the Andean Community, applicable by reference in Venezuela, provide that such prescription shall be provided by an Agricultural Engineer.