



1 Attachment



analyserapport 368248 katoen.pdf

Dear Melinda,

Below is an e-mail intended for the Competent Authorities under Directive 2001/18/EC and the European Commission on an unintentional transboundary movement.

Since I do not have the mailing list for this group, is it possible for you to forward the text below and the attached file, or can you please send me the correct mailing list?

Thank you,

Kind regards,
Annemiek van Waterschoot
0031 70 456 7265

To:
Competent Authorities according to Directive 2001/18/EC
European Commission

Dear colleagues,

Herewith I inform you, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 5, of Directive 2001/18/EC, on an unintentional transboundary movement of genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds.

In March 2015, the Dutch Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILenT) was informed by a Dutch seed company that several cotton seed lots could contain GM seeds. The seed company had received a notification from a Japanese client that a shipment of seeds for decorative cotton (*Gossypium herbaceum*) contained traces of GMOs. Genetic modification was detected using PCR-screening methods (e.g. NOS terminator, *nptII* gene). No event specific detection protocol was carried out.

The ILenT had a sample analyzed by RIKILT and asked advice on possible risks from the Dutch GM expert committee COGEM. The results are summarized below. Because the analysis showed a trace presence of MON531, measures were taken to mitigate the possible effects and prevent further distribution of the product, see below.

The Dutch seed company is one of the world's main producers and suppliers of open pollinated flower seeds. The flower seed varieties are intended for home gardeners use only. The GMO-containing seed lot

was purchased in China. Part of the lot (120 kg) was shipped to producers of seed packets worldwide (<20 kg to European producers; e.g. Spain, France, UK, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands).

Analysis and risk assessment

RIKILT, the Dutch National Reference Laboratory for GMO analysis, has screened the lot against all known GM *Gossypium* events and for the presence of soy and rapeseed. RIKILT detected trace amounts of MON531 (crop: *Gossypium hirsutum*), see enclosed analysis report (Dutch). MON531 is allowed on the EU market for food (expired 2007, renewed 2011) and feed (expired 2007, renewal ongoing), but not for cultivation.

The Dutch expert committee on Genetic Modification (COGEM) has been asked to give advice on the risks of GM *Gossypium* to the environment, and its potential to grow in the Dutch and, in second instance, EU environment. COGEM concluded that there is no risk to human health or to the environment. COGEM also concluded that, due to the Dutch climate, cotton (*G. herbaceum* as well as *G. hirsutum*) is extremely unlikely to form populations in the Netherlands. However, in warmer (e.g. Mediterranean) climates, this may be a possibility.

Measures taken

Immediately after the Japanese client notified the Dutch company, the latter has ceased all sales of the cotton seeds from the suspected lot. In addition, the company has been asked by the ILenT to recall the seeds already sold where possible. To our knowledge all the suppliers have been informed by the company and the *Gossypium* seed lot has been withdrawn from the market.

The general public in the Netherlands will be informed by means of a notification on the ILenT web page. The GM inspection network of the EU (EEP) has been informed by the ILenT (by e-mail).

For further information

In case of further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Catelijne van Beekvelt, GMO Inspector (0031 88 489 0000, Catelijne.van.Beekvelt@ILenT.nl).

Kind regards,

Annemiek van Waterschoot,
Policy advisor
Ministry for Infrastructure and the Environment
