

Explanatory note on Checklists

Four checklists have been prepared by the Monitoring Working Group (MWG)

- Generic checklist (ENV/08/06)
- Bt maize specific checklist (ENV/08/07)
- HT oilseed rape (OSR) checklist (ENV/08/08)
- Starch Potato checklist (ENV/08/09, ENV/08/10)

These checklists are of a non-legally binding nature and their purpose is to present the potential harmful effects to be considered by applicants during the environmental monitoring plan according to Annex VII of Dir. 2001/18/EC. They also serve as guidance for applicants and regulators (e.g. members of CAs under 2001/18/EC) in the authorization of GM plants in the EU.

The general checklist is an attempt to draft a single readable / accessible document, listing all the available methods for all potential harmful effects which can be identified. Individual checklists were drafted in respect of BT maize, HT OSR and the starch potato, entailing more detailed methods. Furthermore these individual checklists were adapted to the specific adverse effects identified for each GMO.

Within the working group there were some divergences of opinion among the experts in particular with respect to the Bt maize and HT OSR checklists. These divergences of opinion have been provided for within the checklists. The blue italicised text attempts to explain where the experts are not in full agreement as to what should be included/excluded from the checklists and in some instances reasoning is provided for this divergence of opinion although not in all.

The potato checklists have been presented as two checklists, (ENV/08/09 and ENV/08/10). The first checklist (ENV/08/09) was drafted by SW (the CA/notifier). This the approach is proportional to the risks associated with the crop/trait combination and closely linked to the outcome of the ERA. Only specific triggers identified in the ERA are taken into account.

A number of other experts were not in agreement with the potato checklist as proposed by the CA/notifier and put forward a version (ENV/08/10) with more monitoring activities and listed methods which could be used in CSM or GS. According to these experts, this alternative checklist yields a broader and more detailed view of the potential environmental effects.

These checklists are indicative and they do not prejudge the case-by-case approval of GMOs.