

Revised SOP Provisions for Simplified FFP Procedure

Adopted by the 37th NBC Meeting of National Biosafety Committee (NBC) on the import of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and their products for direct use as food, feed and/or processing (FFP)

1. The Technology Developer shall apply for a biosafety license for GMOs intended for direct use as Food, Feed, or for Processing (FFP) through a duly notified Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), in accordance with Chapter 14 of the National Biosafety Guidelines, 2005 (amended 2024). The concerned IBC shall evaluate the application and forward its recommendations to Pak-EPA for consideration by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and approval by the National Biosafety Committee (NBC).
2. The biosafety license issued to the Technology Developer shall be event-specific and shall authorize the import, handling, transportation, processing, and use of the approved GMO event(s) by importers solely for Food, Feed, and for Processing (FFP) purposes in Pakistan.
3. After approval by the NBC, the event-specific biosafety license and details of the approved GMO event(s) shall be uploaded by Pak-EPA on the Pakistan Biosafety Clearing House (Pak-BCH) portal for reference and facilitation of stakeholders.
4. Importers shall apply to Pak-EPA for a by-name import permit by referencing the valid event-specific biosafety license issued to the Technology Developer and the approved GMO event(s) listed on the Pak-BCH portal for FFP purposes. In such cases, a separate biosafety evaluation by TAC and fresh approval by NBC for the same approved GMO event(s) shall not be required.
5. Importers intending to import approved GMO event(s) for FFP purposes shall obtain a consignment-specific import permit from Pak-EPA prior to the import of each consignment. The permit shall specify the approved GMO event(s), quantity, source, port of entry, and validity period to facilitate monitoring and reporting under the national and global Biosafety Clearing House mechanisms.
6. The importer shall ensure that only approved GMO event(s) covered under a valid biosafety license are imported. The importer shall ensure safe transportation, handling, offloading, storage, and processing of the GMO consignments, and shall comply with all conditions specified in the permit and applicable biosafety laws, rules, and guidelines.
7. For GMO event(s) already approved by the NBC with an established history of safe import and use for FFP purposes, importers shall not be required to seek fresh NBC approval or repeatedly submit complete biosafety dossiers. In such cases, only a consignment-specific import permit from Pak-EPA shall be required, subject to compliance with applicable conditions and payment of prescribed fees.
8. Pak-EPA may conduct random sampling and verification of imported consignments. In cases of violation, misdeclaration, or non-compliance, legal action may be initiated under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, Pakistan Biosafety Rules, 2005 (amended 2024), and National Biosafety Guidelines, 2005 (amended 2024), including suspension or cancellation of permits and confiscation or destruction of consignments at the importer's cost.
9. Technology developers shall follow all the formalities of the license.