

## **Genetically Modified Foods - A Guide for Caterers**

**This leaflet gives information about labelling of genetically modified soya and maize, as required by the Genetically Modified and Novel Foods (Labelling)(England) Regulations 2000.**

### **WHO DOES THIS LEAFLET AFFECT?**

These new rules apply to meals sold at restaurants and other catering establishments, and to food that is sold loose or is packed on the premises where it is sold.

### **WHAT IS REQUIRED?**

Food retailers and caterers have to be able to tell their customers which foods, if any, contain genetically modified soya or maize.

This does not include foods which are sold to consumers in the same container as they were packed in by the manufacturer.

### **HOW ARE CUSTOMERS TO BE TOLD WHICH FOODS CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYA OR MAIZE?**

All foods containing genetically modified soya or maize ingredients will need to be clearly labelled to indicate this (except where neither protein nor DNA resulting from the modification is present).

However, foods which contain genetically modified soya or maize do not have to be individually labelled if you can satisfy the following:

1. Display a notice, menu, ticket or label which can be easily read by customers (at the place where they choose the food) stating that some of the foods sold on the premises contain genetically modified soya or maize or both, and that further information is available from staff.
2. Display a notice etc. (as above) stating that some foods sold on the premises contain **additives or flavourings** or both produced from a genetically modified organism, and that further information is available from staff.
3. Ensure staff are able to tell any customer who asks them whether a particular food contains genetically modified soya or maize.
4. Have a procedure for keeping staff informed and updated with information about which foods contain genetically modified soya or maize.

If you cannot satisfy these four conditions then each time the name of a food is displayed it must include a declaration of which genetically modified ingredient it includes e.g. Chicken and Ham Pie (contains genetically modified soya/maize).

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT WHICH FOODS CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYA OR MAIZE?**

We would strongly recommend that you always get written confirmation of this information and keep it safe in case of queries by your staff, your customers or Trading Standards Officers.

### **WHEN DO THESE REQUIREMENTS COME INTO EFFECT?**

These regulations came into effect on the 20 April 2000.

If it can be shown food sold to the final consumer was produced using an ingredient which was on sale before 1 September 1998 then these labelling requirements do not apply to that particular food or ingredient.

**Other Genetically Modified Foods approved for marketing within the U.K.**

**Tomato Paste** from genetically modified Tomatoes - this product is labelled voluntarily.

**Chymosin** - a GMO alternative to rennet used in cheese manufacture (including vegetarian cheese)

**Genetically Modified Free**

Before using this statement on your labelling be aware of the following:

- It is possible to detect minute traces of genetically modified soya and maize in food.
- Additives, flavourings and extraction solvents you use may have been produced from genetically modified soya or maize.

**This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law and is intended only for guidance.**