

Monitoring the Presence of GM Ingredients on the Irish Market, 2017

Authorised Genetically Modified (GM) food and food ingredients are allowed on the EU market once they comply with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003.

Labelling on any food product containing or consisting of authorised GM food ingredients is mandatory where the GM portion of the overall ingredient is higher than 0.9%. A 'GM-free' label indicates that products do not contain or are not produced using GM food ingredients and must not mislead the consumer as per Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

In 2017 the Environmental Health Services of the Health Service Executive collected 58 food samples which were analysed by the Public Analyst's Laboratory in Cork for the presence of GM ingredients. Samples were screened for 35S promoter (P35S) and nos terminator (T-nos) DNA sequences and GM events identified and quantified where possible.

Table 1 shows the results of this annual monitoring. Two samples were not compliant: (1) a tofu sample that contained 0.2% of the authorised GM event GTS 40-3-2 RupR but was labelled as 'GM-free', and therefore deemed not compliant with Regulation 1169/2011; and (2) a maize sample containing >0.9% of two authorised GM events (NK603 and Mon 810) which was not labelled accordingly. The remaining 56 samples (96.6%) were compliant with EU law on GM food.

Table 1 Results for the GM ingredients checks in 2017

Food containing Maize							
Sample No.	Sample type	Country of origin	Food chain stage	GM Event	Level	Result	Observations
1	Corn flour	European Union	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
2	Corn flour	Not Stated	Wholesaler/Distributors	-	-	Compliant	-
3	Corn flour	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
4	Corn flour	Romania	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
5	Corn on the cob	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
6	Corn	Not Stated	Retailers	NK603	18%	Not compliant	Pre-packed sample without label, not compliant with Reg. 1829/2003, Reg. 1830/2003 and Reg. 1169/2011
				Mon 810	54%		
7	Polenta	Italy	Wholesaler/Distributors	-	-	Compliant	-
8	Polenta	Not Stated	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
9	Popcorn	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
10	Popcorn	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
11	Popcorn	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
12	Popcorn	Not Stated	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
13	Popcorn	Ireland	Manufacturer	-	-	Compliant	-
14	Popcorn	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
15	Tortilla chips	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
Food containing Rice							
Sample No.	Sample type	Country of origin	Food chain stage	GM Event	Level	Result	Observations
1	Cooking wine	Not Stated	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	-
2	Brown rice miso	United Kingdom	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
3	Rice & coconut milk	Belgium	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
4	Rice cakes	United Kingdom	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-

5	Rice cakes	Not Stated	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
6	Rice cakes	Poland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
7	Rice cakes	Belgium	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
8	Rice cakes	Not Stated	Manufacturers & Packers	-	-	Compliant	-
9	Rice cakes	Ireland	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	-
10	Rice cakes	Belgium	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	-
11	Rice cakes	Ireland	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	-
12	Rice cakes	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
13	Rice cakes	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
14	Rice cakes	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
15	Rice cakes	The Netherlands	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
16	Rice cakes	The Netherlands	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
17	Rice crackers	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
18	Rice flour	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
19	Rice milk	Not Stated	Retailers			Compliant	-
20	Rice milk	Ireland	Wholesaler/ Distributors			Compliant	-
21	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	Samples were highly processed and sufficient quality DNA could not be extracted to perform the PCR
22	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	
23	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	
24	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	
25	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	
26	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	
27	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters			Compliant	
28	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	
29	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	
30	Rice powder	China	Distributors & Transporters	-	-	Compliant	

Food containing Soybean

Sample No.	Sample type	Country of origin	Food chain stage	GM Event	Level	Result	Observations
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1	Tofu	Japan	Retailers	GTS 40-3-2 RupR	<0.1%	Compliant	Level <0.9%, compliant with Reg. 1829/2003, Reg. 1830/2003 and Reg. 1169/2011
2	Tofu	Ireland	Retailers	GTS 40-3-2 RupR	0.2%	Not Compliant	Packaging states 'GM-free', deemed not compliant with Reg. 1169/2011
3	Tofu	Germany	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
4	Soya drink	United Kingdom	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
5	Soya drink	United Kingdom	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
6	Soya flour	United Kingdom	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
7	Soya flour	Ireland	Retailers	GTS 40-3-2 RupR	<0.1%	Compliant	Level <0.9%, compliant with Reg. 1829/2003, Reg. 1830/2003 and Reg. 1169/2011
8	Soya milk	Not Stated	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
9	Soya milk	Belgium	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
10	Soya milk	European Union	Wholesaler/ Distributors	-	-	Compliant	-
11	Soya milk	Ireland	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-
12	Soya nuggets	India	Retailers	-	-	Compliant	-

Food containing Wheat

Sample No.	Sample type	Country of origin	Food chain stage	GM Event	Level	Result	Observations
1	White tortilla	Ireland	Manufacturer	-	-	Compliant	-
TOTAL							
58							