

# LOW LEVEL PRESENCE

A barrier to international trade

## WHAT IS LLP?

### Low Level Presence (LLP)

is when a food or feed grain shipment contains a **small amount of genetically modified (GM) grain** that has been approved in at least one country but not yet in the importing country. Countries approve GM grain by following international guidelines.



## HOW DOES LLP HAPPEN?

GM crops undergo thorough safety assessments before entering the marketplace. LLP situations can occur when there is a time difference in approvals being granted between exporting and importing countries, or when developers did not seek authorizations in importing countries. The likelihood of LLP increases as more GM crops are developed and traded around the globe. The global grain system depends on bulk handling to consistently deliver affordable commodities; despite best industry practices, the system cannot completely prevent the occurrence of LLP.

## LLP IS A MATTER OF COMPLIANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### IMPACTS OF INFLEXIBLE IMPORT POLICIES FOR LLP

Inflexible import policies for **LLP** may lead to unnecessary trade disruptions, as shipments containing **LLP** may be blocked or rejected by the importing country. When the global trade of agricultural commodities is disrupted, this can reduce access to innovation and lead to higher food production costs as well as a less reliable supply of commodities.

Governments	Industry	Consumers
 <b>Importing market</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lack of predictable supply</b> for those that are reliant on imports</li> <li>• <b>Market unpredictability</b> due to disruption in supply</li> <li>• <b>Increased government compliance verification resources</b> dedicated to a low-risk situation</li> <li>• <b>Potential food security issues</b> due to decrease in availability of food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Costs of diverting</b> shipments</li> <li>• <b>Disposal</b> of unsellable product</li> <li>• <b>Increased cost</b> of doing business</li> <li>• <b>Cost of finding alternative supply</b></li> <li>• <b>Deterrent to innovation</b> due to negative association and trade risk</li> </ul>	
 <b>Exporting market</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deterrent to innovation</b> due to risk of trade disruptions</li> <li>• <b>Costs</b> of assisting industry, such as diverting exports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Market losses and decreased trade</b></li> <li>• <b>Costs of finding alternative markets</b></li> <li>• <b>Less willingness to invest</b> in innovation due to costs and complexity of authorizations</li> <li>• <b>Limited access to new crop varieties</b> that can produce more with fewer resources</li> <li>• <b>Unpredictability</b> caused by higher trade risks</li> <li>• <b>Reputation and public trust</b> negatively impacted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Decreased availability</b> of food</li> <li>• <b>Increased prices</b> passed on by shifts in supply and demand</li> <li>• <b>Effects on acceptance of GM foods</b></li> <li>• <b>Ripple effects in supply chain</b> undermine farmers' ability to provide stable access to safe food.</li> </ul>

# MANAGING LLP IN FOOD AND FEED IMPORTS:

## 1 NOTIFICATION

Officials become aware of the presence of unapproved product in an import

### IS IT LLP?

GM plant approved for food use in at least one country in accordance with Codex Plant Guidelines

YES

NO

Regulatory Authority informs Importer of the situation

LLP Management does not apply

## 2 DUE DILIGENCE

Confirm Safety of LLP Product (options)

A pro-active LLP safety assessment was already conducted

Conduct an LLP safety assessment

Recognize full safety assessment of another country

Regulatory authority gathers data:

- GM Food Platform
- Developer
- Regulatory authority of the exporting country

## 3 COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

No enforcement action

Threshold Approach

Under Threshold Level

Above Threshold Level

Determine most appropriate measures and enforcement actions to achieve compliance over time

Complete full safety assessment and approve LLP product in timely manner

- ✓ Stewardship, coupled with transparent, timely and practical LLP management leads to fewer trade disruptions
- ✓ The most effective way to prevent LLP is to avoid time delays between country approvals for GM products



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