

NATIONAL BIOSAFETY BOARD DECISION

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL FOR IMPORT FOR RELEASE OF PRODUCTS OF MON87705 SOYBEAN FOR SUPPLY OR OFFER TO SUPPLY FOR SALE OR PLACING IN THE MARKET

NBB REF. NO: JBK(S) 600-2/1/7

APPLICANT: MONSANTO (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD.

DATE OF DECISION: 10 NOVEMBER 2020

The National Biosafety Board (NBB) on the 10 November 2020 granted approval with terms and conditions to an application from Monsanto (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. for release activities of improved fatty acid and herbicide tolerant MON87705 soybean.

This approval permits the import for release of products of MON87705 soybean for supply or offer to supply for sale or placing in the market. The product is aimed only for the purpose of food, feed and processing (FFP) and is not to be used as planting material.

The recommendation of the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) to the NBB was for an approval with terms and conditions in accordance with the provisions of subsections 16(3) and 16(4) of the Biosafety Act for the release of MON87705 soybean. This recommendation was based on GMAC thorough evaluation which determined that the release of this product does not endanger biological diversity or human, animal and plant health. Proper risk management strategies are to be followed as stipulated through the terms and conditions imposed (Appendix 1).

NBB also considered inputs from Department of Chemistry, Ministry of Health, Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Veterinary Services and Department of Fisheries when making their decision on the application. Public consultation for this application was done from 8 January 2020 to 5 February 2020. A few technical and scientific issues were raised through the Public Consultation for this application regarding the release. These issues have been considered by GMAC in the risk assessment.

NBB reviewed the genetic modification of MON87705 soybean and decided that the products of MON87705 have altered characteristics and properties and is no longer equivalent to its conventional counterpart. Therefore labeling in compliance to the Food Act 1983, Food Regulations 1985 and GM food labelling guidelines is required for all food products of MON87705 irrespective of the presence of the recombinant DNA. Highly refined foods of MON87705 soybean are not exempted from labeling.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

Approval for Import for Release of Products of MON87705 soybean for Supply or Offer to Supply for Sale or Placing in the Market

- 1) There shall be clear documentation by the exporter describing the product which shall be declared to the Royal Malaysian Customs.
- 2) There shall be clear labeling of the product from importation to all levels of marketing stating that it is only for the purpose of food, feed and processing, and is not to be used as planting material.
- 3) Should the approved person receive any credible and/or scientifically proven information that indicates any adverse effect of MON87705 soybean, the National Biosafety Board authority shall be informed immediately.
- 4) Any spillage (during loading/unloading) shall be collected and cleaned up immediately.
- 5) Transportation of the consignment from the port of entry to any destination within the country shall be in secured and closed containers.