



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

Licence for dealings involving an intentional release of a GMO into the environment

Licence No.: DIR 191

Licence holder: International Flower Developments Pty Ltd

Commercial import and distribution of chrysanthemum genetically modified for altered flower colour

Issued: 7 February 2023

Gene Technology Regulation in Australia

Australia's gene technology regulatory system operates as part of an integrated legislative framework. The *Gene Technology Act 2000* (Cth) and corresponding state and territory legislation form a substantial part of a nationally consistent regulatory system controlling activities involving genetically modified (GM) organisms.

This licence is issued by the Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) in accordance with the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and, as applicable, corresponding State law.

The Regulator is required to consult with, and take into account advice from, a range of key stakeholders, including other regulatory authorities, on risks to human health and safety and to the environment in assessing applications for dealings involving the intentional release of GM organisms into the Australian environment.

Other agencies that also regulate GM organisms or GM products include Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Dealings conducted under any licence issued by the Regulator may also be subject to regulation by one or more of these agencies. It is recommended that the licence holder consult the relevant agency (or agencies) about their regulatory requirements.

Dealings permitted by this licence may also be subject to the operation of State legislation recognising an area as designated for the purpose of preserving the identity of GM crops, non-GM crops, or both GM crops and non-GM crops, for marketing purposes.

Further information on licence DIR 191

More information about the decision to issue this licence is contained in the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan prepared in connection with this licence. This document can be obtained from the [Office of the Gene Technology Regulator \(OGTR\) website](#) or by telephoning the Office on 1800 181 030.

Section 1 Interpretations and Definitions

1. In this licence:
 - (a) unless defined otherwise in this licence, words and phrases used in this licence have the same meaning as they do in the Act and the Gene Technology Regulations 2001;
 - (b) words importing a gender include every other gender;
 - (c) words in the singular number include the plural and words in the plural number include the singular;
 - (d) expressions used to denote persons generally (such as “person”, “party”, “someone”, “anyone”, “no one”, “one”, “another” and “whoever”), include a body politic or corporate as well as an individual;
 - (e) references to any statute or other legislation (whether primary or subordinate) are a reference to a statute or other legislation of the Commonwealth of Australia as amended or replaced from time to time and equivalent provisions, if any, in corresponding State law, unless the contrary intention appears;
 - (f) where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning, other grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings;
 - (g) specific conditions prevail over general conditions to the extent of any inconsistency.

2. In this licence:

‘Act’ means the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (Cth) or the corresponding State legislation under which this licence is issued.

‘GM’ means genetically modified.

‘GMOs’ means the genetically modified organisms that are the subject of the dealings authorised by this licence.

‘OGTR’ means the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.

‘Regulator’ means the Gene Technology Regulator.

Section 2 Licence conditions and obligations

3. This licence does not authorise dealings with the GMOs that are otherwise prohibited as a result of the operation of State legislation recognising an area as designated for the purpose of preserving the identity of GM crops, non-GM crops, or both GM crops and non-GM crops, for marketing purposes.
4. This licence remains in force until it is suspended, cancelled or surrendered. No dealings with the GMOs are authorised during any period of suspension.
5. The licence holder is International Flower Developments Pty Ltd.
6. Any person, including the licence holder, may conduct any authorised dealing(s) with the GMOs.
7. The dealings authorised by the licence are to:
 - (a) import the GMOs as cut flowers;
 - (b) transport the GMOs;
 - (c) culture the GMOs as cut flowers;
 - (d) dispose of the GMOs;

and the possession, supply or use of the GMOs in the course of any of these dealings.

Note: An example of culturing the GMOs is placing cut flower stems in a solution intended to extend flower longevity.

Note: The licence does not authorise propagating or growing the GMOs.

8. The licence holder must ensure that the GMOs are not imported for use in commercial human food or animal feed.
9. The authorised dealings with the GMOs may be conducted in all areas of Australia.
10. This licence authorises dealings with the GMOs described in **Attachment A**.

2.1 General obligations of the licence holder

11. The licence holder must notify the Regulator as soon as practicable if any of its contact details change.

Note: please address correspondence to OGTR.M&C@health.gov.au.

Prior to issuing a licence, the Regulator considers suitability of the applicant to hold a licence. The following two conditions address ongoing suitability of the licence holder.

12. The licence holder must, at all times, remain an accredited organisation in accordance with the Act and must comply with its instrument of accreditation.
13. The licence holder must:
 - (a) inform the Regulator as soon as practicable after any of these events occur:
 - i. any relevant conviction of the licence holder; or
 - ii. any revocation or suspension of a licence or permit held by the licence holder under a law of the Australian Government, a State or a foreign country, being a law relating to the health and safety of people or the environment; or
 - iii. any event or circumstances that would affect the capacity of the licence holder to meet the conditions of the licence; and
 - (b) provide any information related to the licence holder's ongoing suitability to hold a licence, if requested by the Regulator, within the timeframe stipulated by the Regulator.
14. The licence holder must inform any person covered by this licence, to whom a particular condition of the licence applies, of the following:
 - (a) the particular condition (including any variations of it); and
 - (b) the cancellation or suspension of the licence; and
 - (c) the surrender of the licence.

Note: No particular condition of this licence applies to any person other than the licence holder.

2.2 Provision of new information to the Regulator

Licence conditions are based on the risk assessment and risk management plan developed in relation to the application using information available at the time of assessment. The following two conditions require that any new information that may affect the risk assessment is communicated to the Regulator.

15. The licence holder must inform the Regulator if the licence holder becomes aware of:
 - (a) additional information as to any risks to the health and safety of people, or to the environment, associated with the dealings authorised by the licence; or

- (b) any contraventions of the licence by a person covered by the licence; or
- (c) any unintended effects of the dealings authorised by the licence.

Note: The Act requires, for the purposes of the above condition, that:

- (a) *the licence holder will be taken to have become aware of additional information of a kind mentioned in condition 15 if he or she was reckless as to whether such information existed; and*
- (b) *the licence holder will be taken to have become aware of contraventions, or unintended effects, of a kind mentioned in condition 15, if he or she was reckless as to whether such contraventions had occurred, or such unintended effects existed.*

Note: Contraventions of the licence may occur through the action or inaction of a person.

16. The licence holder must inform the Regulator if the licence holder becomes aware that the Australian Government has ceased to require devitalisation of imported cut chrysanthemum flowers.

17. If the licence holder is required to inform the Regulator under conditions 15 or 16, the Regulator must be informed without delay.

Note: An example of informing without delay is contact made within a day of becoming aware of new information via the OGTR free call phone number 1800 181 030, which provides emergency numbers for incidents that occur out of business hours.

18. If at any time the Regulator requests the licence holder to collect and provide information about any matter to do with the progress of the dealings authorised by this licence, including but not confined to:

- (a) additional information as to any risks to the health and safety of people, or to the environment, associated with the dealings authorised by the licence, whether or not the licence holder has provided information to the Regulator under condition 15(a);
- (b) any contraventions of the licence by a person covered by the licence, whether or not the licence holder has provided information to the Regulator under condition 15(b);
- (c) any unintended effects of the dealings authorised by the licence, whether or not the licence holder has provided information to the Regulator under condition 15(c);
- (d) research, including by way of survey, to verify predictions of the risk assessment, or for any purpose related to risks to the health and safety of people, or to the environment;
- (e) scientific literature and reports in respect of the GMOs authorised by this licence, for a nominated period;
- (f) details of any refusals of applications for licences or permits (however described) to deal with the GMOs made pursuant to the regulatory laws of a foreign country;

and the request is reasonable, having regard to consistency with the Act and relevance to its purpose, then the licence holder must collect the information and provide it to the Regulator at a time and in the manner requested by the Regulator.

Note: The Regulator may invite the licence holder to make a submission on the reasonability of a request by the Regulator to collect and provide information relevant to the progress of the dealings with the GMOs.

2.3 Obligations of persons covered by the licence

19. Persons covered by this licence must not deal with the GMOs except as expressly permitted by this licence.

20. If a person is authorised by this licence to deal with the GMOs and a particular condition of this licence applies to the dealing by that person, the person must allow the Regulator, or a person authorised by the Regulator, to enter premises where the dealing is being undertaken, for the purposes of auditing or monitoring the dealing.

Section 3 Reporting and documentation

3.1 Annual Report

21. The licence holder must provide an annual report to the Regulator by the end of September each year covering the previous financial year. An annual report must include:
- (a) information about any adverse impacts, unintended effects, or new information relating to risks, to human health and safety or the environment caused by the GMOs or material from the GMOs;
 - (b) information about the volumes of the GMOs imported annually into each port of entry.

3.2 Testing methodology

22. At least 14 days prior to conducting any dealings with a GM chrysanthemum line, the licence holder must provide to the Regulator a written methodology to reliably detect the genetic modifications present in that line. The detection method(s) must be capable of identifying, to the satisfaction of the Regulator, each genetic modification event imported under this licence.

Note: please address correspondence to OGTR.M&C@health.gov.au.

ATTACHMENT A

DIR No: 191

Full Title: Commercial import and distribution of chrysanthemum genetically modified for altered flower colour

Organisation Details

Postal address: International Flower Developments Pty Ltd
802/454 Saint Kilda Road
Melbourne VIC 3004

Accreditation No: 211

GMO Description

GMOs covered by this licence

Five chrysanthemum lines genetically modified by the introduction of only the genes listed below, known by the OECD unique identifiers NS-201806-5, NS-202201-4, NS-203701-1, NS-208133-5, and NS-212801-2.

Parent Organism

Common Name: Chrysanthemum

Scientific Name: *Chrysanthemum x morifolium* Ramat.

Modified traits

Category: Altered flower colour
Selectable marker - antibiotic

Description: The GMOs contain two introduced genes conferring blue or violet flower colour and one introduced selectable marker gene (Table 1, below)

Purpose of the dealings with the GMO

The purpose of the dealings is commercial import and distribution of GM chrysanthemum cut flowers in all areas of Australia. The GM flowers are intended for ornamental use. The licence does not permit growing the GMOs in Australia or use of the GMOs in commercial human food or animal feed.

Table 1 Introduced genes in the GM chrysanthemum lines

Gene	Description	Source	Intended function
<i>nptII</i>	Neomycin phosphotransferase gene	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Antibiotic resistance selectable marker
<i>F3'5'H</i>	Flavonoid 3',5'-hydroxylase gene	<i>Campanula medium</i>	Altered flower colour
<i>A3'5'GT</i>	UDP-glucose:anthocyanin 3',5'-O-glucosyltransferase gene	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Altered flower colour