

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 191 – commercial import and distribution of genetically modified (GM) chrysanthemum

What does this licence allow?

International Flower Developments Pty Ltd has received approval for commercial import and distribution of five types of GM chrysanthemum. Cut flowers of GM chrysanthemum will be imported into Australia and sold to the public through florists and supermarkets, in the same way as non-GM flowers are imported and sold.

The GM chrysanthemums will not be grown in Australia, and will not be used in commercial human food or animal feed.

How has the GM chrysanthemum been modified?

The GM chrysanthemums are genetically modified to have blue or violet flower colour. The two introduced genes that alter flower colour come from the plants Canterbury bells and Butterfly pea. The GM chrysanthemums also contain an introduced antibiotic resistance marker gene that was used to select modified plants during initial development of the GM chrysanthemums in the laboratory.

Where will the GM chrysanthemums be sold?

The GM chrysanthemum cut flowers may be sold throughout Australia for ornamental use.

What controls have been imposed for the GM chrysanthemums?

The licence is for ongoing commercial import and distribution of GM chrysanthemums. The Regulator has not imposed specific measures to manage risk, as the risk assessment concluded that these dealings with the GM chrysanthemums pose negligible risks to the health and safety of people or the environment. Licence conditions have been imposed to prohibit growing the GM chrysanthemums in Australia and ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

Standard Australian biosecurity import conditions require imported chrysanthemum cut flowers to be devitalised by glyphosate treatment. This requirement will also apply to the GM chrysanthemum cut flowers.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 191](#) page of the OGTR website or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the finalised Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), a summary of the RARMP and the licence.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
Tel: 1800 181 030 E-mail: ogtr@health.gov.au
[OGTR Website](#)