

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 204 – field trial of genetically modified (GM) wheat

What does this licence allow?

Trigall Australia Pty Ltd has been issued a licence to grow wheat genetically modified (GM) for increased tolerance to environmental stress. The field trial may be conducted at up to 10 trial sites per year in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia, with a maximum planting area of 20 hectares each year. The trial will run for five years.

How has the GM wheat been modified?

The GM wheat contains an introduced gene for tolerance to environmental stress, particularly water stress. The gene comes from sunflower. The gene is expected to help plants to survive and provide good yields under unfavourable growing conditions, such as during drought.

The GM wheat also contains a selectable marker gene from a common soil bacterium. This gene confers tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate. It was used to select plants during laboratory development of the GM wheat.

What is the purpose of the trial?

The trial will assess the performance of the GM wheat under field conditions in Australia. The GM wheat grown in this field trial will not be used in human food or animal feed.

Has this GM wheat received any other approvals?

The governments of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay have approved growing this GM wheat as a commercial crop in their countries.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is responsible for food safety in Australia. FSANZ has approved the use of food derived from this GM wheat.

What controls are imposed for this release?

The Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) for this application concludes that the field trial poses negligible risks to people or the environment. However, as this is a field trial, Trigall Australia Pty Ltd must comply with a range of licence conditions that stop GM wheat from spreading outside the trial sites. For example, there are conditions to isolate trial sites from wheat crops or other sexually compatible plants, to securely transport and store the GM wheat, and to inspect the sites at the end of the trial to check that all GM wheat is destroyed. Full details of these control measures are in the licence.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 204](#) 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.

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