

Labeling requirements for GMO products become effective

Approval of genetically modified products and putting them into circulation were previously not adequately regulated in Ukraine. Consequently, imports of these products into Ukraine were in effect uncontrolled. With the aim of adequately regulating GMO products, on May 13, 2009 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ministers passed a resolution requiring labeling of food products containing genetically modified organisms or produced by using GMO.

The new resolution is not the first effort by the Ukrainian government to regulate the GMO product market. Unfortunately, all previous efforts were unsuccessful due to an inefficient system of monitoring compliance with requirements. The new resolution now regulates labeling requirements and lays down legal responsibility for violating GMO product labeling obligations.

Under the resolution, food products containing GMO over 0.1 % or produced with the use of products containing GMO over 0.1% must be labeled.

The manufacturer has to attach a <GMO> label to the list of ingredients or next to the product name or its package. GMO products marketed without GMO labeling are to be withdrawn from the market.

However, the resolution does not specify how the seller, consumer, or inspector can find out whether products without special labeling contain GMO.

Experts notice that the resolution meets European regulations and standards in the GMO sphere. The question still remains how to provide an efficient system of monitoring compliance with the new requirements.