

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 21/R08/01 (2021 release)

A report on the Genetic Modification Inspectorate's field inspection visit to a genetically modified (GM) crop trial to assess compliance with Part VI of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002.

GMO consent details

Consent reference: 21/R08/01 (experimental release).

Consent holder: Rothamsted Research.

Crop type: Wheat (winter) (*Triticum aestivum*).

Site details: Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

OS Reference: TL 122 134

Details of the GMO: Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) plants that have been gene-edited using CRISPR-Cas9 to contain mutations in the *TaASN2* asparagine synthetase gene.

Purpose of the release: To investigate the effect of knocking out the *TaASN2* gene on free asparagine accumulation in wheat grain in the field.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 24/03/2022

Site reference: RR-21/R08/01-SITE01-2022-INSP_01.

Personnel seen: Consent Holder, Lead Research Scientist, Head of Farms.

Inspection details: The Genetic Modification Inspectorate carried out an inspection of this 2021-sown research trial of GM winter wheat at the late tillering stage. Checks were made on the following: the location, size and layout of the trial; the measures in place to restrict human access to the trial site; the methods employed for planting; the widths of the non-GM pollen barrier and the isolation distance; the management and monitoring of the release during the growing season; and the Consent Holder's plans for harvesting and disposal of plant material. All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions: The Genetic Modification Inspectorate is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in the consent. No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organism, were identified.

Action required/taken: None

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