

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 21/R08/01 (autumn 2022-sown release)

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

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 Genetically Modified Organism

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) plants that have been gene edited using CRISPR-Cas9 to contain point mutations (including changes, inserts and or deletions of one or more DNA bases) in one or more of the following asparagine synthetase genes: *TaASN1* and *TaASN2*.

Purpose of the release

To investigate the effect of knocking out the *TaASN1* and *TaASN2* genes on free asparagine accumulation in wheat grain in the field.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 3 August 2023

Site reference: RR-21/R08/01-SITE01-2022/23-INSP_02.

Personnel seen: Co-lead Research Scientist.

Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate carried out an inspection of this autumn 2022-sown research trial of GM winter wheat at the seed ripening stage. Checks were made of the:

- location, size and layout of the trial
- measures in place to restrict human access to the trial site
- widths of the non-GM pollen barrier and surrounding isolation distance

All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent document.

Checks were also made on the management and monitoring of the release during the growing season, and plans for harvesting the seed and disposing of waste material. All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent document.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in letter of consent 21/R08/01 (dated 03/08/2021) and its accompanying schedule, and with variation to consent 21/R08/01 (dated 01/10/2022) which amends the description of the GMOs for release. No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organism, were identified.

Action required or taken: None

APHA GM Inspectorate

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4 August 2023