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Report Name: Canada Consults on Novel Feed Regulation

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Report Highlights:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is seeking feedback on proposed guidance that clarifies which plant-derived feed ingredients require a pre-market assessment, as per the Feeds Act and Feeds Regulations. The deadline for comment on the proposed guidance is November 27, 2023.

Canada Consults on Novel Feed Regulation

On September 28, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [launched consultations](#) on proposed guidance that clarifies which plant-derived feed ingredients require a pre-market assessment, as per the [Feeds Act](#) and [Feeds Regulations](#), including how to make a novelty determination of ingredients derived through plant breeding destined to be used in livestock feeds. Novel feeds consist of organisms or parts of products thereof that have never before been evaluated and approved for use as livestock feed in Canada, regardless of how they were developed. Novel feeds may be from plant sources, including plants with novel traits (PNTs)¹.

These consultations follow the revision and publication of two other guidance documents on PNTs, both of which support the introduction of gene-edited products in the Canadian market. In July 2022, the government of Canada published [Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Novel Foods](#). These guidelines reinforce Canada’s product-based approach and provide guidance on how Canada’s Novel Food Regulations are applied to products of plant breeding.

Secondly, on May 3, 2023, Canada published updated [guidance](#) for determining whether a plant is regulated under Part V of the Seeds Regulations. Canada's Seeds Regulations, Part V – Release of Seed, came into force in 1996 and focus on the release of seed into the Canadian environment in terms of safety for the environment and human health. Revisions to “Directive 2009-09: Plants with novel traits regulated under Part V of the Seeds Regulations” clarify existing requirements for plant breeders and other stakeholders. The CFIA also published a [rationale](#) for updating Directive 2009-09.

The previous two revised guidance documents were welcomed by industry groups for facilitating innovation and development of improved plant varieties. However, some environmental groups, the Quebec government, the Union des producteurs agricoles, the Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec, and Filière biologique, have reportedly voiced their concerns about product traceability.

The consultation will be open for 60 days, from September 28 to November 27, 2023.

To provide feedback to the CFIA, read the [proposed guidance](#) on how to determine when a plant-derived ingredient requires a feed pre-market assessment and [send an email](#) with your ideas or comments to cfia.afp-paa.acia@inspection.gc.ca.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ Health Canada [defines](#) a PNT as a plant that contains a trait which is both new to the Canadian environment and has the potential to affect the specific use and safety of the plant with respect to the environment and human health.