

Directive

9180.67

December 10, 2019

**LETTERHEAD TRANSGENIC AND BIOTECHNOLOGY STATEMENT FOR
GRAIN AND GRADED COMMODITIES**

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1. PURPOSE

This directive provides the approved letterhead statement pertaining to the transgenic (genetic engineering) status of grain and graded commodities in United States commerce.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces FGIS Directive 9180.67 dated 1-25-07. It is revised to provide a single statement reflecting the current transgenic status of certain commodities to ensure the statement reflects current regulatory policy. Additionally, it is revised to make minor editorial changes.

3. BACKGROUND

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) often receives requests from buyers, sellers, and processors of U.S. grown commodities such as grain and pulses to provide a letterhead statement indicating the transgenic status of these commodities in commercial production in the United States.

The U.S. Government deregulates some agricultural commodities for commercial production in the United States, while others remain regulated. The regulatory status of these agricultural commodities falls within three categories:

- a. Regulated and not for commercial production in the United States.
- b. Deregulated, but based upon information supplied by the developer, not for sale or in commercial production.
- c. Deregulated and in commercial production in the United States.

Advances in technology such as genome editing compel updating of the transgenic status letterhead statements issued by AMS.

4. STATEMENT

To facilitate the marketing of U.S. grains and pulses, AMS will provide, upon request of a stakeholder, one factual letterhead statement for relevant commodities. The statement aligns with the current state of technology and U.S. Government regulatory processes.

The new letterhead transgenic status statement is:

“There are no transgenic barley, wheat, sorghum, sunflower seed, dry edible beans, chickpeas, lentils, peas, or rice currently or previously subject to USDA’s biotechnology regulations that are for sale or in commercial production in the United States for food or feed use at this time.”

Because of the rapidly evolving nature of the technology, the approved statement may be amended on short notice. If the letterhead statement requires future updating, this Directive will be updated to reflect new language.

The letterhead transgenic status statement will not be found elsewhere on the AMS website. This Directive is the only source of the available letterhead transgenic status statement.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the regulatory and commercial status of grain, pulses, and other agricultural commodities reviewed by the U.S. Government, please consult: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/biotechnology/how-federal-government-regulates-biotech-plants>.

For information concerning the letterhead statement, contact the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at (202) 720-0228.