

**From:** [Chase, Harold](#)  
**To:** [AMS - GMO Labeling](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Questions to Stakeholders re: Establishment of a National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2017 7:48:24 AM

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July 17, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

**RE: Proposed Rule Questions Under Consideration for the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard.**

NSF International (NSF) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the questions asked by the United States Department of Agriculture regarding the establishment of a national standard for the disclosure of bioengineered food.

NSF is an independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1944 in Ann Arbor, MI that develops consensus national standards, provides product inspection, testing and certification, auditing, education, and related services in public health and safety. The core purpose of NSF is to “protect and improve human and environmental health.” NSF has a long history of working with the EPA, FDA, USDA, CDC, and health related government entities at the state and local levels, as well as international bodies. NSF is a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Food Safety, Water Quality, and Indoor Environment. NSF is the parent of QAI, a USDA-accredited certifying agent for the National Organic Program.

**USDA Question: What terms should AMS consider interchangeable with ‘bioengineering’? (Sec. 291(1))**

Subtitle F, Sec 2 of the enabling legislation, PL 114-216 clearly states that “In the case of a food certified under the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the certification shall be considered sufficient to make a claim regarding the absence of bioengineering in the food, such as “not bioengineered”, “non-GMO”, or another similar claim.” As such, NSF supports a final rule that considers certification under the National Organic Program (NOP) to be sufficient to making a claim regarding the absence of bio-engineering.

For foods that are not viewed as organic under the NOP, NSF would encourage USDA to rely on existing and widely used private-sector standards, such as NSF Non-GMO True North and the Non-GMO Project, which establish criteria for the production, testing, and evaluation of foods making a non-GMO claim. Third party certification to these standards would allow consumers to identify non-organic products claiming to be non-GMO.

**USDA Question: What is the amount of a bioengineered substance present in a food that should make it be considered bioengineered? (Sec. 293(b)(2)(B))**

NSF encourages USDA to limit food to no more than 0.9% GMO derived ingredient content per dry weight. This exemption amount is consistent with the NSF Non-GMO True North protocol and recognizes the limitations of existing supply chains.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Harold Chase  
Legislative Director  
NSF International

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