

Mandate for an ENGL working group on Detection, Interpretation and Reporting on the presence of authorised and unauthorised genetically modified materials (WG DIR)

(as adopted by the 22st ENGL SC meeting on 15th March 2012)

UPDATED UPON 1ST MEETING ON 17-18 September 2012
ADOPTED BY THE ENGL SC23 on 19/09/2012

The mandate of the DIR working group is the following:

1. Review the document "Overview on the detection, interpretation and reporting on the presence of unauthorised genetically modified material" published in 2011 in particular broadening the scope to authorised GMOs and to uncovered taxa, taking into account recent observations and reports on the RASFF and technological developments.
2. Starting from fig. 2 of the above-mentioned document, provide practical guidance to improve and facilitate harmonisation for detection, interpretation and reporting for authorised, pending authorisation (LLP) and unauthorised GMOs.
3. Review available information and technological developments, identify gaps and provide guidance on how these can be closed, taking cost-benefit aspects into consideration. In case during its activity the WG identifies methods suitable to fill existing gaps, these may be forwarded to the ENGL Advisory Group on Selection of Methods for Validation (AG SMV).
4. Discuss pros and cons of targeted (knowledge-based) versus non-targeted (unbiased) approaches to GMO detection. In this respect, a targeted approach can be understood e.g. as an analytical strategy based on information on the origin/composition of the sample (specific country, crop or inserted element or construct).
5. Provide guidance on recommended approaches for verification of analytical results for GMO detection, with clear indications of requirements and status as evidence.
6. Set up a priority of actions and list identified unclosed gaps.

Timeframe:

- March 2012, adoption of mandate by ENGL SC22
- August 2012, nomination of DIR WG members
- September 2012, first WG DIR meeting. Clarification of the WG mandate, first draft outline of new doc and distribution of subtask responsibilities to WG members.
- September 2012, adoption of revised mandate by ENGL SC23
- 19th November, 2012, WG members prepare their contributions linked to subtask responsibilities.
- 4th December, report by the WG chairperson to the ENGL Plenary.
- Q1-2013, second WG DIR meeting, first draft reporting to SC24.
- Q2-2013, WG members revise and further prepare contributions linked to subtask responsibilities
- Q2-2013, third WG DIR meeting, reporting to ENGL Plenary.
- Q3-2013, WG members revise and further prepare contributions, but mainly work on the final structure and contents of the document. Guidance aspects are high priority.
- Q4-2013, final WG DIR meeting, final draft to SC25 for adoption and ENGL Plenary.
- End of January 2014: Final document published.