



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

11th November 2011

Notice sent to UK importers/producers of flax/linseed (by email).

INFORMATION NOTICE: CHANGES TO THE IMPORT PROCEDURES OF LINSEED/FLAX (*LINUM USITATISSIMUM*) FROM CANADA

You will be aware that following detection of genetically modified (GM) CDC Triffid seed in linseed grain imports from Canada in 2009, a temporary embargo was placed upon linseed grain originating from Canada for import into the EU; this embargo has now been lifted. The EU and Canada have worked together on a protocol to reduce the risk of these grain exports containing GM seed. Please see the latest report by the [Flax Council of Canada](#) for more details.

As an importer/producer of linseed/flax seed for sowing, you should continue to be aware of the possibility of adventitious GM presence (AGMP) of this event in seed of *Linum usitatissimum* as CDC Triffid is not authorised for food, feed or cultivation within the European Union.

The GM Inspectorate, having discussed the issue with the Varieties and Seeds Policy Team, does not at this time consider there to be a generic problem with AGMP in linseed/flax seed for sowing and does not envisage this species will be the subject of the Inspectorate's routine audits of seed for AGMP.

We will continue to monitor this situation and any further developments will be placed on the GM Inspectorate website: <http://www.gm-inspectorate.gov.uk/gmflax/>

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