USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution **Date:** January 22, 2026

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Report Name: Egypt Publishes Regulations on Genetically Modified Foods or Their Components

Country: Egypt

Post: Cairo

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On January 4, 2026, Egypt's National Food Safety Authority published Decision No. 1/2025, regarding the rules regulating the handling of genetically modified foods or their components. The regulations take effect the day after publication, with a six-month grace period for compliance.

On January 4, 2026, Egypt's National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) published Decision No. 1/2025, regarding the rules regulating the handling of genetically modified (GM) foods or their components. The decision is based on the approval from the NFSA Board of Directors on September 15, 2025.

The notification defines GM foods as those containing or produced from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The regulations cover all aspects of food handling, including production, processing, storage, packaging, transport, import, export, and sale, and assign responsibility for compliance to food establishment operators. Decision No 1/2025 also details the processes for notification to the NFSA, requirements for environmental risk assessment, and the use of unique identifiers for GMOs. It distinguishes between products containing GMOs, products derived from GMOs, and conventional counterparts produced without genetic modification.

Additional provisions address traceability, labeling, and the roles of distributors and final consumers, as well as the handling and identification of pre-packaged food products. Overall, the framework aims to ensure comprehensive oversight and safety in the management and distribution of GM foods.

The decision takes effect the day after publication in the Egyptian Official Gazette, with a six-month grace period for producers and importers to comply.

Unofficial Google Translation

Translation begins on page 11 of the attached official notification.

The Egyptian Gazette (Chronicles) – Issue 3 on January 4, 2026

National Food Safety Authority
Board of Directors Resolution No. 1 of 2025
Regarding the Rules for Regulating the Handling of Genetically Modified Foods or their Components

The Board of Directors

Having reviewed Law No. 1 of 2017 issuing the Law of the National Food Safety Authority.

And Presidential Decree No. 419 of 2019 issuing the Executive Regulations of the National Food Safety Authority Law.

And Resolution No. 6 of 2020 of the Board of Directors of the National Food Safety Authority regarding the rules for regulating food import licensing.

And Resolution No. 11 of 2020 of the Board of Directors of the National Food Safety Authority regarding the rules for applying food safety requirements in food establishments.

And Resolution No. 9 of 2021 of the Board of Directors of the National Food Safety Authority regarding the handling of incoming food consignments subject to temporary release.

And Resolution No. 16 of 2022 of the Board of Directors of the National Food Safety Authority regarding food traceability requirements.

And based on the approval of the Board of Directors of the National Food Safety Authority on September 15, 2025.

(Article 1)

To apply the provisions of this decision, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated opposite each of them:

The Authority: The National Food Safety Authority established pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 1 of 2017.

Genetically Modified Foods: Foods that contain, consist of, or are produced from what are known as genetically modified organisms, which are organisms whose genetic characteristics have been modified to add new characteristics to them.

Food Handling: Any one or more of the processes of food production, manufacturing, offering or displaying for sale, storage, preservation, packaging, transportation, delivery, import, or export, or licensing or approval of any of these activities.

Food Establishment Operator: The natural or legal person responsible for ensuring the application of the requirements of the law and relevant legislation regarding food safety within the food establishment.

Genetically Modified Organism: Means a living organism, excluding humans, in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally through mating and/or natural recombination.

Intentional Release: Means any deliberate introduction of a genetically modified organism into the environment or a group of genetically modified organisms where specific containment measures are not used to limit their contact with it to provide a high level of safety.

Placing on the Market: Means making available to third parties, whether for payment or free of charge.

Notification: Means submitting the information required under this regulation to the National Food Safety Authority.

Notifier: Means the person who submits the notification. Product: Preparation that consists of, or contains, a genetically modified ingredient or a group of genetically modified ingredients and is placed on the market.

Environmental risk assessment: This refers to the assessment of risks to human health and the environment, whether direct or indirect, immediate or delayed, that may be posed by the deliberate release or placing on the market of genetically modified organisms.

Unique identifier: This refers to a simple numerical or alphanumeric code used to identify a genetically modified organism based on the approved transformation event on which it was developed and provides the means to retrieve specific information relevant to that genetically modified organism.

Distributor: A natural or legal person who places a product on the market or receives a product that has been placed on the market in the Community, at any stage of the production chain, but does not include the final consumer.

Genetically modified food for food use: This means a genetically modified organism intended for use in the food sector or as a source material for food production.

Control sample: The genetically modified organism or its genetic material ("positive control sample"), and the original organism or its genetic material that was used for the purpose of genetic modification ("negative control sample").

Conventional counterpart: A similar food produced without the aid of genetic modification, which has a well-established history of safe use.

Product derived from a genetically modified organism: A component derived wholly or partly from genetically modified organisms, but which does not contain or consist of genetically modified organisms.

Genetically modified ingredient: Refers to any substance, including additives, that is used in the manufacture or preparation of a food product and remains present in the final product.

Traceability: The ability to track and trace food through all stages of production, processing, and distribution.

Labeling: Any written or pictorial text present on a label, attached to, or displayed near the food, including that used to promote the sale or display of the food.

Final consumer: Means the final consumer of food who does not use the product as part of any commercial process or activity.

First stage of placing a food product on the market: This refers to the initial handling in the production and distribution chains, to make the product available to a third party.

Pre-packaged food product: This is any individual product offered for sale consisting of a product and packaging materials in which it was placed before being offered for sale, such that the packaging materials completely or partially surround the product, provided that the contents cannot be altered without opening or modifying the packaging.

(Article 2)

Objective

This decision aims to establish regulations governing the trade of genetically modified foods or their components, in order to ensure the minimization of potential harm from the trade of genetically modified foods or their components, thus protecting the consumer. Establishments involved in the trade of genetically modified foods or their components must obtain a food trade license from the National Food Safety Authority before trading them in the markets.

(Article 3)

Scope

The provisions of this decision apply to the trade of genetically modified foods or their components, provided that the genetically modified component constitutes more than 1 percent of the final product which must originate from a genetically modified source that has been disclosed, and the provisions of this decision regulate the requirements, controls, and procedures that must be met at all stages of handling genetically modified foods or their components.

(Article Four)

General Requirements

1. The circulation of any food, food products, food additives, or food additive preparations containing genetically modified foods or their components is prohibited if it is documented that their circulation is not permitted in the country of origin.

2. The Authority may prohibit the import, circulation, seizure, or withdrawal of any food, food products, food additives, or food additive preparations containing genetically modified materials or their components from the markets in the following cases:

(a) If the product is found to be unsafe or of poor quality based on a report from the manufacturing company, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, or any other reference country.

(b) When a decision is issued by one of the Authority's committees disapproving of the import or circulation of the product.

(c) If its circulation has been stopped in the country of origin on which the approval for its circulation was based.

3. Operators of food establishments and their suppliers are obligated, when importing genetically modified foods or their components, to disclose the percentage of the genetically modified component in the final product.

(Article Five)

Labeling

The facility operator, when handling genetically modified foods or their components used in manufacturing, and in the case of foods consisting of one or more components or being a main component of a food product, must clearly indicate on the label/packaging the mark or phrase "genetically modified" in parentheses directly on the list of ingredients.

(Article Six)

Response Measures and Disposal of Genetically Modified Foods or Their Components

The importer, exporter, trader, developer, manufacturer, producer, and transporter of genetically modified foods or their components that are likely to cause harm if released, shall notify the Authority. The regulations shall specify the conditions and controls for response measures. In the event that the Authority decides to dispose of them, it shall be their responsibility to dispose of the organisms (genetically modified foods) or their components that violate the provisions of this decision, or to destroy them or return them to the country of origin, at their own expense and under the supervision of the Authority after prior coordination.

(Article Seven)

Monitoring, Surveillance, and Inspection

The Authority shall undertake the activities of monitoring and surveillance of genetically modified foods or their components. The Authority shall carry out supervisory activities at the facility to assess its compliance through announced and/or unannounced inspection visits to ensure its compliance with the food safety requirements and standards issued in this regard.

(Article Eight)

Documents Accompanying Shipments of Genetically Modified Foods or their Components

1. The import application for genetically modified foods or their components for human consumption shall be submitted to the competent authority according to the approved form for genetically modified foods or their components, and the following documents shall be attached:

(a) A certificate of free sale issued by the competent authority in the country of origin, proving that the product is available on the market in the country of origin.

(b) The label of the genetically modified food or its components.

(c) A certificate indicating the percentage of the genetically modified component.

(d) A health certificate for the final product proves its suitability for human consumption.

2. Documents that may be requested when necessary:

(a) A description of the safety of the genetic modification processes performed on the food.

(b) A test certificate proving the safety of the product for human consumption.

(c) Approved laboratory analysis methods for testing genetically modified food or its components.

(d) The latest available safety assessment report, if any.

(Article Nine)

The provisions of this decision shall be effective from the day following the date of its publication in the Egyptian Official Gazette, with a grace period of six (6) months granted to producers and importers to comply with the regulations, and anything that contradicts this shall be repealed.

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Prof. Dr. Tarek El-Houby

Attachments:

Official NFSA Decision on GM Food Handling--January 4 2026.pdf