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POLICY

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Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

MARD Removes Extra Steps to the Agricultural Substances Registration

Report Categories:

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Oilseeds and Products

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

This report provides an unofficial translation of Decision 5463/QD-BNN-PC, dated December 28, 2016 of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The Decision revokes Circular 20/2014/TT-NNPTNT, dated June 26, 2014, which specified the roles and responsibilities in the management of agriculture materials. This Decision took effect from December 28, 2016.

Summary:

In Vietnam, the responsibility for the registration of agricultural substances, such as pesticides, veterinary drugs, fertilizers, and animal feeds resides in a number of specialized management agencies under MARD, including the Department of Plant Protection, Department of Animal Health, Department of Crop Production, Directorate of Fisheries, and the Department of Livestock Production. However, since August 2014, MARD’s Circular 20/2014 had protracted the registration process, adding additional steps and placing the verification of product registration dossiers in the Department of Science, Technology, and the Environment as a necessary and often lengthy step before they were approved by the Minister of MARD (see [GAIN report VM4045](#) for additional details).

On December 28, 2016, MARD issued Decision 5463/QD-BNN-PC repealing Circular 20/2014 and, as a result, has removed this extra process layer in the registration of agricultural materials. Additionally, MARD’s specialized management agencies have resumed responsibility for reviewing registration dossiers of agricultural substances and shall submit the list of products directly to the MARD Minister for final approval. It is not yet clear the extent to which this change might streamline the slow and backlogged process of registering products such as animal feeds and forages.

MARD’s specialized management agencies will also now be responsible for providing an internal audit of the 1) review of the application dossiers and 2) recognition of products in accordance with the applicable law. These agencies will also be required to provide quarterly updates on the issuance of permits for agricultural materials to the Ministry.

Below is an unofficial translation of Decision 5463.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

No. 5463/QD-BNN-PC

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM**
**Independence - Freedom -
Happiness**

Hanoi, December 28, 2016

DECISION

on revoking Circular No. 20/2014/TT-NNPTNT dated June 26, 2014 stipulating some content of assignment and competence to manage agriculture materials

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Pursuant to the Law on promulgation of legal documents dated June 22, 2015;

Pursuant to the Government’s Decree No. 199/2013/ND-CP dated November 26, 2013, stipulating the function, tasks, power and organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD);

Pursuant to Government's Decree No. 34/2016/ND-CP dated May 14, 2016, making detailed provisions for a number of articles and measures for the implementation of the Law on promulgation of legal documents;

Considering the proposal of the Director of the Legal Department and the Director of Department of Science, Technology and Environment:

DECIDES

Article 1. To revoke MARD's Circular 20/2014/TT-BNNPTNT dated June 26, 2014 and to stipulate some content of assignment [of tasks] and competence to manage agriculture materials.

Article 2. Responsibilities of agencies under the Ministry:

1. Directorates and specialized Departments shall be responsible for:
 - a) Developing, promulgating, and organizing the implementation of their internal inspection process for the receipt and handling of application dossiers requesting issuance of permits for field trials and the registration of the circulation and recognition of agriculture materials, recognizing establishments eligible for conducting field trial (hereinafter collectively referred to as the issuance of permit) in accordance with applicable laws;
 - b) Periodically every quarter or, when required, reporting to the Ministry on the current situation of issuance of permits.

Reports on the issuance of permits include the following content: List of agriculture materials issued with permits (including new issuances, additional issuances, re-registration and renewal), clearly stating the reason therefor; List of agriculture materials no longer to be manufactured, circulated or used and stating the reason thereof;
 - c) Speeding up the application of information technology in issuing permits; and announcing information on issuance of permits publicly and in a timely manner on the webpages of the Directorates and Departments.
2. Directors of Directorates and specialized Departments shall be responsible before the law and the Minister in respect to the issuance of permits for field trials and the registration of circulation and recognition of agricultural materials.
3. MARD's Inspectorate shall coordinate with the Legal Department and the Department of Science, Technology and Environment to periodically or extraordinarily inspect the relevant units in complying with the law on management of agriculture materials.

Article 3. This Decision shall be put into full force and effect from the date of its signing.

Article 4. The Chief of the Ministry Secretariat, the Director of the Legal Department, the Director of the Department of Science, Technology and Environment and heads of relevant agencies and organizations shall be responsible for implementation of this Decision.

Recipients:

- As Article 4;
- Leaders of the Ministry;
- Departments/Directorates of MARD;
- Website of MARD;
- Kept as archives: Office, Legal (40).

**ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER
DEPUTY MINISTER**

(signed and stamped)

Ha Cong Tuan