

Labelling of foods containing genetically modified soya & maize other than prepacked foods

This leaflet gives information about the *Food Labelling Regulations 1996* as they have been amended to include labelling of foods containing genetically modified soya and maize and/or additives or flavourings which contain genetically modified material.

The new rules apply to meals sold at restaurants and other catering establishments, and to food that is sold loose or is packed on the premises where it is sold.

This leaflet does not include information about foods which are sold to consumers in the same container as they were packed in by the manufacturer.

What is required?

Food retailers and caterers have to be able to tell their customers which foods contain genetically modified soya or maize, and/or if they contain additives or flavourings which contain protein or DNA derived as a result of genetic modification.

How are customers to be told?

Foods which contain genetically modified soya or maize, and/or additives or flavourings containing genetically modified material, do not have to be individually labelled if you can satisfy the following 3 conditions:

1. Display a notice, menu, ticket or label which can be easily read by customers (at the place where they choose the food) stating that some foods sold on the premises contain genetically modified soya or maize, and/or additives or flavourings containing genetically modified material and that further information is available from staff.

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2. Ensure staff are able to tell any customer who asks them which particular foods contain genetically modified material.
3. Have a procedure for keeping staff informed and updated with information about which foods contain such ingredients, additives or flavourings.

If you cannot satisfy these three conditions then each time the name of a food is displayed it must include a declaration of which genetically modified ingredient it contains e.g. Chicken and Ham Pie (contains genetically modified soya/maize).

How do you find out which foods contain genetically modified soya, maize, additives or flavourings?

It is the responsibility of food retailers and caterers to find out from your suppliers which foods contain genetically modified material.

Packaging delivery notes or other documents accompanying their supply may contain the information. **However, it is your responsibility to find out and you should ask, in writing, for written confirmation or otherwise.**

We would strongly recommend that you keep this information safe in case of queries by your staff, your customers or Trading Standards Officers.

Your suppliers do not have to tell you if food contains genetically modified soya or maize but if they will not tell you, you may wish to change your supplier.

Are other genetically modified foods approved by the Government?

YES: tomato paste from genetically modified tomatoes and cheese made using chymosin produced by a genetically modified organism (used widely in cheese using vegetarian cheese).

Currently there are no labelling requirements for these foods or for foods containing them.

Where can I get further help?

This leaflet is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification contact Derbyshire Trading Standards at:

Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3FW

Telephone:

Businesses:	Call Derbyshire	08 456 058 058
Consumers:	Citizens Advice consumer helpline	08454 040506

Fax: 01629 536197

Website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

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- Language interpreters, including for sign language
- Translation of written materials into other languages
- Materials in large print, on tape or in Braille.

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