New genomic techniques: information needed for verification and authorisation

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Public consultations on:

Plants obtained by new genomic techniques: information requirements and verification of **category 1** status

Plants obtained by new genomic techniques: applications for **category 2** plants and their products

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has set rules for plants produced through new genomic techniques (NGTs) that change genetic material in plants, but do not insert genes from other plants. These rules will apply from **17 July 2028**. They create two categories of NGT products:

- Category 1 – plants with genetic changes that could occur naturally or through conventional breeding. EU rules on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) do not apply, and products will only need to pass a verification procedure before they can be sold in the EU.
- Category 2 – plants with genetic changes that could not occur naturally or through conventional breeding. These must generally be assessed and authorised in line with EU GMO rules, but as NGTs have specific characteristics, special rules will apply.

The EU will adopt a Regulation on the information that must be submitted before NGT plants and products can be sold on the market. In each case, these include:

- Category 1 – the information needed to demonstrate that a plant or product has Category 1 status, information on patents (published or applications), and the willingness of the patent holder to license their patents.
- Category 2 –
  - the information needed to assess food, feed, and environmental safety
  - details of how to prepare and submit market authorisation applications
  - conditions where post-market environmental monitoring may not be required
  - performance requirements for analytical methods.

The aim of these rules is to ensure that verifications and authorisations are carried out consistently across EU Member States.

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Actions

The consultations via the European Commission's Have Your Say platform closed on 28 September 2026. Feedback can be viewed on the platform:

- Plants obtained by new genomic techniques: information requirements and verification of category 1 status
- Plants obtained by new genomic techniques: applications for category 2 plants and their products

Timeline

The new rules will apply from **17 July 2028**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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