

Proposal on new genomic techniques

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[Proposal](#) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625

[Annexes](#) to the Proposal

European Commission (2025) [Commission welcomes provisional agreement on new genomic techniques for plants](#). Press release, 4 December.

What is changing and why?

In 2001 the European Union (EU) established rules for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) (Directive [2001/18/EC](#)). Since then, new genomic techniques (NGTs) have been developed, which the EU believes can benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment. However, the current rules make it challenging for products from these NGTs to enter the EU market. So the EU has provisionally agreed on new rules specifically for NGT plants and products.

The new rules establish two categories of NGT plants/products.

Category 1

These plants and products (NGT-1) are considered to be equivalent to plants produced by conventional breeding. They are not considered to be genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and therefore do not have to comply with the general GMO rules. For non-EU suppliers, NGT-1 plants may be placed on the EU market in the same way as conventional commodities.

Category 1 NGT plants/products do not require specific labelling or traceability – with the exception of seeds and other plant reproductive materials, which must be labelled as NGT-1 plants.

Products of NGT-1 plants placed on the EU market for the first time must undergo a verification procedure. This procedure does not involve risk assessment or risk management.

Plants that are tolerant to herbicides or have known insecticidal effects will **not** be included in category 1. These products will remain subject to authorisation, traceability and monitoring.

Category 2

These NGT plants and products are not equivalent to those produced by conventional breeding. They must undergo risk assessment and authorisation under the existing GMO rules.

Organic production

GMO crops and products may not be produced in organic production. NGT-1 plants are prohibited in organic production. However, the accidental and technically unavoidable presence of NGT-1 plants in organic products would not disqualify them from being considered organic.

Timeline

The Regulation must be formally adopted by the Council of the EU (Member States) and the European Parliament. It will be published in 2026 and will apply 2 years after publication.

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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