

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VOLUNTARY STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING
OF FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Communication from Canada

Addendum

The following communication, dated 16 August 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

1. Further to Canada's earlier communications (G/TBT/W/134 and G/TBT/W/134/Add.1) on the Development of a Voluntary Standard for the Labelling of Foods Derived from Biotechnology, the present communication serves to advise Committee Members that the standard for "Voluntary Labelling and Advertising of Foods That Are and Are Not Products of Genetic Engineering" has been published as a National Standard of Canada.
2. The Standard is voluntary and is intended to provide consumers with consistent information for making informed food choices while providing labelling and advertising guidance for food companies, manufacturers and importers.
3. The application of the Standard relates to claims about food ingredients that have been "genetically engineered," that is, food ingredients obtained through the use of specific techniques that allow moving genes from one species to another.
4. The Standard
 - Applies to the advertising and labelling of food ingredients (pre-packaged, bulk, and food prepared at the point of sale) to distinguish whether or not such food ingredients have been genetically engineered;
 - Defines terms, and sets out various criteria for making claims about whether or not a food contains ingredients that are products by genetic engineering; and
 - Provides examples of acceptable and non-acceptable labelling statements.
5. The Standard does not apply to processing aids, enzymes used in small quantities, substrates for micro-organisms, veterinary biologics and animal feeds.
6. The electronic version of this Standard is available at:
http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/032_025/cover-cgsb-32-315E.pdf (English)
http://www.tpsgc.gc.ca/cgsb/032_025/cover-cgsb-32-315f.pdf (French)