

A NOTE ABOUT THE IMPORTATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS TO BE USED UNDER CONFINEMENT FOR RESEARCH OR EDUCATION PURPOSES

With regard to the importation into Mexico of living modified organisms (LMOS) such as transgenic animals, plants or microorganisms, with the aim to be used under confinement for research or education purposes, the Law on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (LBOGM) states in its articles 80 and 83¹ that the importation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) for use under confinement can be done from the moment that the institutional biosafety officer representing the Internal Biosafety Commission has presented to the corresponding competent authority the Notification (“Aviso”) in which the institution declares the GMOs being used by the institution.

It is important to mention that the Executive Secretariat of CIBIOGEM is not a competent authority, however, the LBOGM in its Article 109 mandates the Executive Secretariat to maintain the National Registry of Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (<http://conacyt.gob.mx/cibiogem/index.php/avisos-de-utilizacion-confinada>), in which the different Notifications presented to the authority by the complying institutions are registered. Therefore, if for instance, *Arabidopsis thaliana* has been registered by a given institution, and it appears in these records, there is not a need for that institution to obtain an additional import permit to introduce the seeds or plant material of genetically modified *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Nevertheless, any other relevant requirement, such as phytosanitary certificates, must be fulfilled according to the corresponding regulation.

¹ARTICLE 80.- It also requires the presentation of a notification the importation of GMOs to be used in a confined way for industrial or commercial purposes, solely when the following suppositions are assembled:

- I. GMOS not requiring a license, given that they will be exclusively used in a confined manner, and therefore, are not imported to be released to the environment, and
- II. GMOs not requiring sanitary authorization given that they will not be for human use or consumption of for public health aims.

ARTICLE 83.- The confined utilization of GMOs and the importation of such organisms for this activity may be carried out starting when the internal commission of biosafety or the importer, as the case may be, presents the respective notification to the corresponding Secretary.

(http://conacyt.gob.mx/cibiogem/images/cibiogem/eng/Docs/Ing_LBOGM_P.pdf)