| NR | ACTIVITY | NOTES |
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| 1. | Registration of a facility for activities involving genetic modification (GM) | •All GM related facilities, including laboratories, growth rooms, glass houses and pilot plants, have to be registered as required by Regulation 4.<br>•A risk assessment is done as part of the registration process to ensure the activities are done in a safe manner. Containment measures, the characteristics of the donor and receiving organisms, the transgenes, the receiving environment and operational details are considered. |
| 2. | Contained use of GMOs | •A permit is required for any contained (enclosed within a physical structure, e.g. walls, floor & roof) activities involving GMOs.<br>•Under Regulation 2(2) academic and bona fide research facilities, depending on certain conditions, are exempt from this requirement. |
| 3. | Intentional release into the environment (trial release) | •Also referred to as confined field trials (CFTs) or a limited environmental release, including pilot plants.<br>•A comprehensive risk analysis is done - confinement measures are very important.<br>•Requires a public notification. |
| 4. | General release | •Equivalent to “deregulation” or “commercial use” in other countries – allows the unrestricted, but conditional use of the GMO within the territory.<br>•General release permits are always subject to conditions.<br>•An extensive risk analysis is required, including comprehensive biosafety data, several seasons’ field trial data and a socio-economic impact assessment – all contained in a regulatory dossier.<br>•Public input is also considered before approval can be granted. |
| 5. | Commodity clearance | •Commodity clearance is required for LMOs that will be imported in bulk as food or feed and that are not intended for environmental release - typically seeds that will not be planted, but rather processed in a way that will leave them non-viable.<br>•A complete food safety assessment is required, but the environmental assessment is limited in line with the limited environmental exposure. |
| 6. | Commodity use for food, feed or processing | •This permit complements the commodity clearance permit as it authorises an entity or facility, e.g. a miller, to handle and/or process imported LMO commodities. |
| 7. | Import for contained use | •Required for the import of small amounts of LMOs intended for academic and research purposes at containment levels 1 to 4. The facility where intended research will be done should also be registered. |
| 8. | Import for intentional release (trial release) into the environment | •Required for the import of small amounts of LMOs intended for confined field trials or pilot studies in South Africa. Application should be accompanied by a field trial or other relevant use permit application. |
| 9. | Import of LMOs that have general release or commodity clearance status | •Required for the import of LMOs that already have general release or commodity clearance status.<br>•Application should be accompanied by a current letter from the Competent National Authority of the exporting country, confirming the status of GM event(s) in that country.<br>*Note: Only applicable if the exporting country is Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) as it forms part of the advance informed agreement obligations under the Protocol.* |
| 10. | Export for (i) contained use or (ii) use as food, feed or processing | •Required for the export of LMOs from South Africa that are destined for contained use OR use as food, feed or processing in the importing country.<br>•Application should be accompanied by a permit/letter of authority permitting import by the Competent National Authority or government department engaged with issuance of import permits for LMOs within the importing country.<br>*Note: Forms part of the advance informed agreement obligations under the CPB. Non-party countries may have similar national regulations.* |
| 11. | Export for intentional release into the environment | •Required for the export of LMOs from South Africa that are destined for intentional introduction into the environment in the importing country.<br>•Application should be accompanied by a permit/letter of authority permitting import by the Competent National Authority or government department engaged with issuance of import permits for LMOs within the importing country.<br>*Note: Forms part of the advance informed agreement obligations under the CPB. Non-party countries may have similar national regulations.* |
| 12. | GMO Status certification for export | •Exporters can apply for GMO status certification for both:<br>(1) consignments of products of which a GM version is commercially produced, in terms of the GMO Act, in South Africa (e.g. maize) and<br>(2) products of which there is no GM version available (e.g. sugar).<br>•Applications for type (1) products must be accompanied by (i) supporting analytical data AND (ii) an affidavit detailing the analytical and operational parameters of the consignment, while type (2) products require an affidavit only. |