

**Questions & Answers - Australian Grain Industry  
Guidelines for Notification of Release of non-GM Herbicide Tolerant Varieties**

- Q. What is the purpose of this document?  
A. To outline a suggested approach to early notification to industry of the release of non-GM herbicide tolerant varieties, in order that early consultation with all relevant parties can identify any chemical-related market access issues that may arise following release of the variety.
- Q. Does the notification cover all new varieties and / or chemicals?  
A. No. The notification does not cover situations where a commodity (one or more varieties) tolerant to a particular chemical has previously been released and is available commercially.
- Q. Does the notification relate to all herbicide tolerant varieties?  
A. No. It only covers all non-GM herbicide tolerant varieties. Another document deals with the release of GM varieties.
- Q. How does this review process differ from the APVMA Trade Advice Notice (TAN) process?  
A. In summary, the following applies:

Situation	APVMA TAN Process	Use this Notification Process
Chemical not registered in AUS	Yes	Not required
Chemical previously approved (i.e., same label directions) by APVMA for use on that non-herbicide tolerant crop	Not applicable	Not required
Chemical previously approved at the same label directions by APVMA for use on that herbicide tolerant crop	Not applicable	Not required (but recommend consideration of use)
Chemical previously approved but with different label directions by APVMA for use on that herbicide tolerant crop	Yes	Yes – prior to TAN process
Chemical not approved for use by APVMA on that herbicide tolerant crop, but approval will be sought by plant breeding company	Yes	Yes – prior to TAN process

- Q. Does the notification cover a variety that is bred to have tolerance to soil residual herbicide but isn't intended to have an herbicide actually applied to it?  
A. While not the main purpose of this document, these guidelines can be used to cover any situation where the use of an herbicide may lead to a chemical related market access issue.
- Q. Is the use of this document mandatory?  
A. No. This is a suggested consultation process. Industry stakeholders may choose not to follow these guidelines. There are no regulations involved in this consultation process.

- Q. I am a plant breeder involved in releasing commercial varieties. What happens if I don't engage in this consultation process?  
A. Nothing. You would continue on your business practices as normal.
- Q. Will I be charged to engage in this consultation process?  
A. No.
- Q. What happens if the result of the consultation process shows industry is not supportive of the release of my variety?  
A. Nothing. That outcome does not prevent any company from releasing a variety. It is hoped that during this consultation process any issues that are identified as a concern upon release of the variety would be addressed, however that may not always be possible.
- Q. Who manages the interaction with the Plant Breeding Company?  
A. The Chair, National Working Party on Grain Protection.
- Q. Will the information I provide be made public?  
A. No! Information will NOT be made available to the public. Information provided to the Chair NWPGP will be provided to any other party unless written authority is provided. At the commencement of the consultation both stakeholders will liaise and agree on all stages of the process and use of any information.
- Q. What happens if I want to or am asked to provide confidential information? Do I have to?  
A. To enable as effective consultation as possible, it is requested that all relevant information is provided. Stakeholders do not need to provide commercial in confidence material. Where provided that information will remain confidential and will not be provided to any other industry stakeholder unless written authorisation is provided by the Plant Breeding Company.
- Q. How long will the consultation process last?  
A. Until both parties agree further consultation is not warranted. This may take months to over a number of years, depending on how early in the development of the variety consultation commences. In the initial stages of the consultation both parties will discuss and agree on possible length of the consultation that may be required.