

Regulatory History of StarLink Corn

- * Application for registration of StarLink corn filed by Plant Genetic Systems¹ (PGS): 8/8/97
- * PGS requests an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for Cry9C residues “in or on all raw agricultural commodities” 9/19/97
- * EPA grants a temporary exemption from the tolerance requirement for Cry9C (the bacterial protein genetically engineered into each cell of the corn), restricting it as follows: “only in corn used for feed; as well as in meat, poultry, milk or eggs resulting from animals fed such feed” 4/10/98
- * StarLink corn approved for use as animal feed and for industrial uses 5/22/98
- * AgrEvo resubmits petition to the EPA to expand exemption to cover Cry9C residues “in or on all raw agricultural commodities” 4/7/99
- * Public comment period for input on expanding the exemption: 12/21/99 – 2/22/00
- * Friends of the Earth and Genetically Engineered Food alert reveal that StarLink has contaminated the food supply 9/18/00
- * Aventis cancels its registration of StarLink corn at the urging of the EPA (meaning that StarLink can no longer be planted for any agricultural purpose) 10/12/00
- * Aventis requests time-limited exemption for StarLink in processed foods; EPA announces scientific review of new evidence (source: EPA press release) 10/30/00
- * EPA releases Scientific Advisory Panel report noting that there is a medium possibility that StarLink is an allergen. 12/05/00
- * Federal Register notice concerning the April 2001 filing by Aventis of a petition to the EPA to establish a tolerance of 20 ppb of Cry9C in corn 6/20/01
- * EPA announces that based on the Scientific Advisory Panel’s recommendations, “establishing a tolerance (legal residue limit) of StarLink in human food products is not currently supported.” 7/27/01

The SAP concluded that:

“In addition, the subpopulations most likely to be affected, including young infants placed on hypoallergenic formulas and children with multiple food allergies who are most susceptible to developing an allergic response because of their high corn consumption, have not been addressed. The recommendation to involve the allergy community for surveillance of this problem was not implemented.” (Report 2001-09, pg. 34)

“...based on *reasonable scientific certainty*, there is no identifiable maximum level of Cry9C protein that can be suggested that would not provoke an allergic response and thus would not be harmful to the public.” (Report 2001-09, pg. 35)

¹ PGS was taken over by AgrEvo; AgrEvo was then taken over by Aventis, the current registrant.