



Dear Concerned Consumer

All South Africans need to act urgently and immediately to the proposed legislation in the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) governing the labelling of Genetically Modified (GM) food. The legislation is weak and undermines the consumer's right to know and consumer choice while addressing the needs of big business instead.

An essential element for the labelling of GM Foods is to protect the **consumer's right to know and to make informed choices**. And since our supermarket shelves are full of foods that contain GM ingredients, it has never been more critical that food labelling reflect this inclusion. The African Centre for Biosafety is intent on securing this right for the consumer by submitting our demands backed up by your support. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS ACTION BY ADDING YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF SUPPORTERS at [.labelgmfoods.org.za](http://labelgmfoods.org.za)

We have until the 31st January 2011 to submit comments before the legislation is finalised. If the legislation is passed in its current form it will deny consumers the right to know what is in their food and hence remove their freedom of choice in what they eat.

Our demands

- 1) Legislation must extend to all foods and ingredients produced from any GMO, irrespective of whether they contain detectable GM material.
- 2) Legislation CANNOT be restricted to Maize, Soya Beans and Imported Canola oil.
- 3) A 1% GM contamination threshold is maximum acceptable threshold. Not 5%.
- 4) No loopholes to allow food companies to excuse themselves from testing and labelling.

The biotech companies don't want us to know about GMOs in our food. The president of a Monsanto subsidiary once told a newspaper "If you put a label on genetically engineered food you might as well put a skull and crossbones on it". They are also putting pressure on government to provide loopholes for producers to avoid labelling. We have to counter that pressure.

Let us join together by sending a collective national voice to government demanding our right to know and our freedom of choice be secured by providing strong effective legislation. By adding your name and supporting the ACB's submission you will be sending a clear message to government that consumers will not accept weak and ineffective legislation that *restricts our right to know and undermines our freedom of choice*.

With Hope,
Mariam, Haidee, Gareth, Zakiyya

Further Reading

- The Consumer Protection Act – Final Draft <http://www.dti.gov.za/ccrd/cpact09.pdf>
- Traceability, segregation and labelling of genetically modified products in South Africa: A Position paper on the implementation of the Consumer Protection Act and mandatory labelling of GM food [://www.biosafetyafrica.org.za/index.php/Search.html?ordering=&searchphrase=all&searchword=labelling](http://www.biosafetyafrica.org.za/index.php/Search.html?ordering=&searchphrase=all&searchword=labelling)
- www.labelgmfoods.org.za