

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 01, S. 2009,
January 05, 2009]**

**FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT IN SITUATIONS OF LOW-LEVEL
PRESENCE OF RECOMBINANT-DNA PLANT MATERIALS IN FOOD
AND FEED**

WHEREAS, products derived from modern biotechnology, including genetically modified (GM) commodities for food and feed or processing are globally traded;

WHEREAS, countries in accordance with their national priorities and needs have adopted biosafety legislation, rules and regulations, and other measures so as to enjoy fully the benefits of modern biotechnology while safeguarding the health of humans and animals and safety of the environment;

WHEREAS, Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 8, series 2002 (DA AO 8), "Rules and Regulations on the Importation and Release into the Environment of Plants and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology", regulates the use of products of modern agricultural biotechnology that are intended for commercial release including recombinant-DNA products for direct use for food and feed or for processing;

WHEREAS, the cornerstone of a decision making for the issuance of a biosafety permit for direct use as food and feed or for processing under DA AO No. 8 is a food safety assessment/risk assessment conducted in accordance with internationally accepted principles and practices including those of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Codex Principles for the Risk Assessment of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CAC/GL 44-2003) and the Codex Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants, or otherwise known as the Codex Plant Guideline (CAC/GL 45-2003);

WHEREAS, the DA adopted the Codex Principles for the Risk Assessment of Food Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CAC/GL 44-2003) and the Codex Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived From Recombinant-DNA Plants (CAC/GL 45-2003) on 13 October 2008 through DA AO No. 31 series of 2008;

WHEREAS, DA AO No. 8 has established the Approval Registry of Plant Products for Direct Use as Food and Feed or for Processing, currently maintained by the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry;

WHEREAS, there have been occasions of unauthorized low-level presence of recombinant-DNA material in countries of import;

WHEREAS, the unauthorized presence in low levels of recombinant-DNA plant materials in commercial food and feed can be traced to several factors, including natural pollen flow, emergence of volunteer plants from previously harvested GM crops, discontinued GM products where discontinuance is not due to safety reasons,