

Obligations for commercial cultivation of genetically modified maize in the Czech Republic

- valid since 2010 for every farmer who grows (or intend to grow) GM maize

1. To **inform** about the **intention** to cultivate GM maize the user of land parcel, which is located in the distance of 140 m (conventional farmers), respectively 400 m (organic farmers), from land parcel, where he/she has the intention to cultivate GM maize, and this has to be done before sowing, at the latest **by 1st March** of appropriate calendar year.
2. To keep a minimum **isolation distance** – **70 m** of stands of the GM maize from another field with a stand of maize, which is not genetically modified. Farmers may fulfil an obligation to keep minimum isolation distance by sowing around this GM maize a buffer of maize which is not GM, and which is considered during harvest as GMO. There is a scheme in place which says that 1 row of the buffer strip in minimum width of 0.7 metres substitutes 2 metres of minimum isolation distance.
3. To keep a minimum **isolation distance** – **200 m** of stands of the GM maize from the stand with organically cultivated maize. Farmers may fulfil an obligation to keep minimum isolation distance by sowing around this GM maize a buffer of maize which is not GM, and which is considered during harvest as GMO. There is a scheme in place which says that 1 row of the buffer strip in minimum width of 0.7 metres substitutes 2 metres of minimum isolation distance, but 100 metres of minimum distance may be substituted at the most.
4. To **inform** about the **real cultivation** of GM maize the user of land parcel, which is located in the distance of 140 m (conventional farmers), respectively 400 m (organic farmers), from land parcel, where he/she cultivates GM maize, and this has to be done after sowing, at the latest **by 15 days** from the day of beginning of their cultivation.
5. To **inform in written form** about the **real cultivation** of GM maize the **Ministry of Agriculture** (through regional agencies), and this has to be done after sowing, at the latest **by 30 days** from the day of beginning of its cultivation.
6. To **inform in written form** about the **real cultivation** of GM maize the **Ministry of Environment** (Department of Environmental Risks), and this has to be done after sowing, at the latest **by 60 days** from the day of beginning of its cultivation.
7. To **label** the final product of GM maize as “genetically modified organism” or “genetically modified maize”, incl. the unique identifier, which is for Bt maize MON810, **MON-ØØ81Ø-6**, and provide this information to the buyer/user of the final product.
8. To **keep data** on cultivation of the GM maize for a period of **five years**, in the extent laid down in the Decree No. 89/2006 Coll. (resp. in a recent amendment of this decree) on more detailed requirements for cultivation of genetically modified variety (data, which describes the handling of GM potatoes from sowing till the harvest).

Appropriate regulations:

- The Act No. 252/1997 Coll. on agriculture as amended by the Act No. 441/2005 Coll. and Act No. 291/2009 Coll.
- The Act No. 78/2004 Coll. on the use of genetically modified organisms and genetic products as amended by the Act No. 346/2005 Coll.
- Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC