

**From:** Ref. 405 <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 15 June 2020 17:45

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** Referat 222 <[REDACTED]>; Abt. 4 <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Illegal transboundary movement of conventional maize seeds with traces of GMO to Lithuania

Dear [REDACTED],

I am contacting you as the competent national authority pursuant to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) is the German Point of Contact for the purposes of notifications under Article 25 of the Cartagena Protocol (illegal transboundary movement).

On 20th May 2020 the BVL was informed by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture about the illegal transboundary movement of conventional maize seeds (200 x 5.000 seeds; variety Sweet Wonder, lot number 40 MF) which were found to contain traces of genetically modified seeds. According to the analysis reports of the official Hungarian testing laboratories the events MON88017 and MON89034 were detected in the sample (unique identifiers MON-88Ø17-3 and MON-89Ø34-3). The EU Commission received the information in parallel and made it available to the other Member States on 25th May 2020 via their information platform (CIRCABC).

According to the information given by the Hungarian Ministry, the total quantity of the concerned maize seeds was delivered back to the seller, a seed trader in Lower Saxony/Germany on 27th April 2020.

At the same day they received the notification from Hungary (20th May 2020), BVL informed the competent authority of this German Federal Land which traced back the distribution of the concerned maize seeds (variety Sweet Wonder, lot number 40 MF).

On 9th and 11th June 2020 the BVL obtained further information and investigation results by the competent authority of Lower Saxony. The seeds originally delivered to Hungary were incorrectly labeled according to a statement of the affected German seed trader. The correct lot number of the maize seeds packed and exported to Hungary is 40 LF and not 40 MF. The original shipment from the company Crookham Company in Caldwell/Idaho (USA) to the German seed trader Agri-Saaten GmbH in Bad Essen/Lower Saxony was a total quantity of 13,029.736 maize seeds (Sweet corn Sweet Wonder M, lot number 89340 LF). The number was abbreviated by the seed trader to 40 LF on their further packages and delivery notes.

According to the delivery notes provided by the German seed trading company, a quantity of 5.000 seeds was delivered to Lithuania and a company in Vilnius already on 9th April 2020 (see attachment).

In a first report the BVL has informed the EU Commission about the measures taken in Germany on 9th June (uploaded to CIRCABC on 11th June 2020). BVL will subsequently inform the EU Commission about the illegal transboundary movements of the concerned maize seeds to different countries including Lithuania.

We would be very grateful if you could confirm the receipt of this email. In case you have any question or require additional information, please contact us at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,  
on behalf

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food safety, Department 4 - Genetic Engineering, Unit 405 - Traceability, Methods of Detection, Biosafety Clearing-House

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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