

To: District Council Chief EHOs
Group Chief EHOs
NI FLG Members

10th April 2008

Reference: ENF/NI/08/20

Dear Colleagues

UNAUTHORISED “Bt 63” GENETIC MODIFICATION IN SPECIFIED PRODUCTS FROM CHINA

For information

You will wish to be aware that Commission Decision 2008/289/EC on emergency measures regarding the unauthorised genetically modified organism ‘Bt63’ in rice products, was published in the Official Journal on 9 April 2008, (OJ No. L96, 9.4.2008, p.29).

The Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland has issued a Food Alert to District Council Chief Environmental Health Officers, Group Chief Environmental Health Officers and the NI Food Liaison Group members in this regard. Further information regarding this incident can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/apr/bt643>

Annexed to this letter is a letter issued to port health authorities on 10th April 2008, and a copy of Commission Decision 2008/289/EC. The letter to port health authorities contains a list of accredited laboratories in China which can issue the analytical report to accompany consignments of rice and rice products from China. An example of the analytical report is also included in the letter. These documents were received from the Commission on 9th April 2008. Food Business Operators and Trade Associations have been forwarded this information.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL JACKSON
Head of Local Authority Unit