



## **Statement**

# **Genetically modified materials and printing inks and related products**

From time to time printing ink manufacturers have been asked whether materials derived from genetically modified organisms are present in their products. These enquiries have come from printers and food and retail sectors, and have been aimed at printing inks used on food packaging and subsequent possibility of genetically modified materials contaminating food.

It is well understood in the packaging industry that printing inks are not formulated or manufactured according to accepted food standards, and there should be no direct food contact, except in special cases, between the dried printed surface and the food. The design and structure of packaging takes this situation into account to support this policy as well as ensuring as far as possible that migration and set-off are avoided. Consequently, whether genetically modified products are present or not in printing inks should be of minimum concern with respect to the packaged food.

As a further point of reassurance, and as an example, the normal refining and processing of vegetable based materials for their suitability for the day-to-day printing inks, reduces any genetically modified products to extremely low levels requiring highly sophisticated analytical methods for detection. Although the complete absence of genetically modified products cannot be guaranteed, their presence in printing inks as supplied would be many orders of magnitude lower than the 0,9% labelling obligations of Commission Regulations (EC) 1829/2003 (Art. 12) and Directive 2001/18/EC (Art. 21) (amended by Regulation 1830/2003), with respect to the genetically modified material content in the actual packaged food.