

THE
NATIONAL LAW REVIEW

GM Labeling Rule Update - USDA Extends Deadline for Stakeholder Input

Monday, July 31, 2017

- Legislation requiring labeling of genetically modified (GM) foods and food ingredients was signed into law on July 29, 2016. This law directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [to develop](#) regulations and standards to create mandatory disclosure requirements for bio-engineered foods by July 2018. Under the new law, food companies would have three options to disclose GMO ingredients: the use of on-package text, a USDA-created symbol, or an internet link — i.e., a QR code printed on the package that directs customers to GMO information.
- On June 28, 2017, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) posted [a list of 30 questions](#) to obtain stakeholder input to facilitate the drafting of mandatory disclosure requirements to implement the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law. Many of the questions are open-ended in nature and request stakeholder feedback on how to best define certain terms, how to determine if a product requires a GMO label and what on-package symbol should be used to denote GMO ingredients. See our [client alert](#) for a comprehensive review of USDA's 30 questions.
- Stakeholder feedback was originally due to USDA by July 17, 2017, but was recently [extended to August 25, 2017](#).



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