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Unlabelled GM residues in infant formula

EFSA says Medical Doctors should be informed

Yesterday it was reported that three separate testing laboratories had found unlabelled GM soy and corn residues in soy infant formula, two on the submission of Greenpeace, and one on the submission of material by Channel 7's Sunday Night show.

Greenpeace provided MADGE with results from tests on two of the formulas (S-26 and Karicare) that pinpointed the GM crops from which the residues came.

MADGE's Madeleine Love said "There are known risks associated with GM crops, and we demand the right to avoid them. We need to know what is in the food we feed our babies."

"According to a very recent European Food Safety Authority Opinion, the tiniest pieces of foreign DNA, more reminiscent of bacterial, viral, fungal, or parasitic DNA could act as potent adjuvants for the priming of immunological response to ordinary food proteins."

"This sort of DNA appears to be in the GM crops of which residues were found in infant formula, and parents must have the right to avoid it."

"The Opinion even said that the very minimal testing conducted within the laboratories of the GM crop developers was completely inappropriate for infant digestive systems."

"These crops have been released on a "safe until proven unsafe" basis, and in respect of the clinical aspects of food allergy the EFSA Opinion concluded a need to

".. inform medical doctors and consumers of the presence of GM- and non GM products, so that case reports can be specifically related to either category of food that has been consumed."

"GM crop residues have to be fully labeled, and if this can't be managed, products that could potentially contain GM residues should be off the supermarket shelves."

MADGE would like to know whether GM material from food eaten by a mother could sensitise a baby in-utero, or passes through breastmilk. There seem to be no studies looking at this.

Contact:

Madeleine Love

0447 762 284

Frances Murrell

0401 407 944