

## SECTION D

# Monitoring plan as required in Annex VII of Directive 2001/18/EC

### **Type of monitoring plan**

The monitoring plan described in the submission is based on general surveillance. We believe this is a realistic approach, applicable to the genetically modified carnation lines already approved in Europe, as well as any additional future lines. Once purchased by an end consumer, the imported flowers could be used anywhere in the EU and it is not possible to track the final distribution of all flowers. In reviewing a previous application (C/NL/04/02) in Europe, the GMO panel of EFSA concluded that case-specific monitoring for marketing of colour-modified, genetically-modified carnation was not appropriate (EFSA, 2006). As no potentially adverse effects have been identified for the GM product described in this application, we believe case-specific monitoring is also not appropriate for IFD-26407-2 as the guideline parameters that are recommended for case specific monitoring do not apply.

For example;

- Because there is no avenue for gene dispersal it is not possible to document the spread, persistence and accumulation of transgenes and recombinant proteins.
- There are no apparent organisms, food chains or habitats that are affected by conventional carnation flower imports, which could therefore be the subject of specific attention for transgenic carnation.
- It is not possible to quantify a baseline environment in the absence of the imported carnation flowers in the floral trade distribution environment and household environment.
- As the flowers will not be grown in the EU, there is no requirement for monitoring of production locations within the EU.

### **Monitoring at production sites**

Though Florigene are not required to undertake specific monitoring activity as a condition of approvals to grow and sell IFD-26407-2 in USA or South America, we will continue to monitor the production site areas in South America for the presence of our carnation, particularly in the area where the waste from the carnation production is recycled. Growers are expected to provide Florigene feedback on;

- Any increase in disease susceptibility
- Any unusual increases in the incidence or type of pests

- Report any adverse reactions to handling the flowers
- Any incidence of genetic off types

In addition Florigene staff visit the farms frequently and personally inspect the areas where flowers are discarded and the natural vegetation close to the growing areas for any escapes.

### **Traceability**

Information collected will be from general surveillance, but the nature of the floricultural business is such that there will be a reasonably accurate record of the flow of flowers to wholesale outlets. This information will be accessible to Florigene and a database is maintained at Florigene of all individual exports to the EU.

- Florigene will maintain exact records of all exports to Europe – exact number of flowers, customer details, date and arrival airport will be recorded, which can be tallied to independent records of the freight forwarders, importers and airlines.
- Importers will record sales to wholesalers and supermarkets on a variety basis. This is done for them to evaluate the relative commercial success of specific products. The information could be used to identify date and customer name.
- Some wholesalers are very sophisticated and keep bar code systems that will allow the sale of the transgenic carnation to be traced by date, customer and volume. Not all wholesalers have such business systems.

A PCR based test has been developed that will allow the specific identification of the line that is described in this proposal to support detailed investigation if necessary. This detection method is described in Attachment C1 of this application.

### **Monitoring methods**

#### Importer feedback

Importers will be asked to monitor their markets for any suppliers selling flowers that resemble the Florigene product. Samples will be collected for analysis if necessary. On a six monthly basis our European importers will be asked for feedback in questionnaire format. The questionnaire is attached at the end of this document.

#### Consumer feedback

The Florigene web site now has a regulatory link in German, English and French at which consumers are provided contact details through which to comment on Florigene products. The names and locations of our importer customers are listed on the website.

#### Expert monitoring group

Florigene has engaged the services of breeders and botanists with interests in *Dianthus* biology. We

have asked them to alert us to any unusual hybrids that might find during their routine survey work. We will undertake to carry out molecular analysis and test for resistance to herbicides to eliminate the possibility of transgenic hybrid discovery if these experts request it. The experts group comprises Europe-based carnation breeders and Europe-based academics with expertise in *Dianthus* biology, ecology and taxonomy.

Binding agreements/contracts have not been made with the experts as we feel this would discourage participation in the monitoring activity. Participation of the academic experts is supported by an annual honorarium, for which we would expect a brief annual statement on their survey work applicable to the monitoring. The breeders will not be paid. Active participation will be encouraged through contact by phone and email and during visits by Florigene staff to the EU. It is envisaged that the surveys carried out by the contact group would be part of any survey work normally undertaken by the experts, rather than a specific expedition mounted to seek theoretical hybrids. The monitoring parameters will comprise an indication of the locations surveyed, area surveyed and if any *Dianthus* species are identified. Through the contact Florigene will keep with the experts we expect to be advised of the location and timing of surveys and will advise them of known carnation growing areas. Our expectation is that at least one of the primary designated experts would participate in such a survey each year. If not, Florigene will provide support to carry out a survey during one of the summer months in the carnation growing region of southern Spain in the vicinity of Chipiona, Andalusia. This region has been chosen because of the high density of carnation plants, grown in relatively open conditions, in a region of Europe where several *Dianthus* species do occur. We will undertake to carry out molecular analysis and test for resistance to herbicides to eliminate the possibility of transgenic hybrid discovery if these experts request it.

#### Mailing list

Florigene has compiled a mailing list of key herbaria, national botanic survey networks, plant protection services and botanic gardens in Europe and we will write to these institutions to notify them of the importation of the product into Europe and alert them to take this into account when reviewing any *Dianthus* collections that may come into their possession. A copy of the mailing list is provided at Attachment D1.

#### **Annual report**

The Florigene office in Australia will collate all information from importers and any comments from consumers. Florigene will provide an annual report to the Dutch CA and The EU Commission describing the outcome of the monitoring activity on the anniversary of the consent date. The report will include;

- Number of flowers imported into Europe in each week of the year by variety, importer and importer location
- List of surveys carried out by Florigene expert groups with date, location and area surveyed
- All reports of putative *Dianthus* hybrids identified
- All reports of any wild carnation populations
- Response to mail out to herbaria, national botanic survey networks, plant protection services and botanical gardens

**Reference**

EFSA. Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms on a request from the Commission related to the notification (Reference C/NL/04/02) for the placing on the market of the genetically modified carnation Moonlite 123.2.38 with a modified colour, for import of cut flowers for ornamental use, under Part C of Directive 2001/18/EC from Florigene. *The EFSA Journal* 362, 1-19, 2006.

*Opinion adopted on 17 May 2006*

## Questionnaire

### Questionnaire

Number **FLORIGENE TO COMPLETE**

As part of the conditions for marketing approval of Florigene varieties in the EU. Florigene are required to monitor for any unexpected effects that may be associated with the import and consumption of our flowers. Your help in completing this questionnaire is very much appreciated. If you tick YES to any question a representative of Florigene will contact you as soon as possible for more details, including variety and circumstances.

Your feedback can be returned to us electronically.

Your name **WILL BE COMPLETED BY FLORIGENE**

Your company **WILL BE COMPLETED BY FLORIGENE**

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you aware of any reports of illegal growing of Florigene varieties?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Has any of your staff or re-packers reported any adverse or unexpected response to handling Florigene flowers?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Have any of your customers reported to you any adverse or unexpected effects of handling Florigene flowers?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**If there any other comments you wish to make, please type here;**