

**Notice to importers, wholesalers and retailers of tropical fish:
ILLEGAL IMPORT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORNAMENTAL FISH**

The GM Inspectorate and Fish Health Inspectorate first alerted importers and retailers of tropical fish that genetically modified (GM) zebra fish were illegally available for sale in the UK in June 2007. Since then, eight imports of GM zebra fish (*Danio rerio*) destined for sale in the UK have been identified and removed from the market. These fish had been imported from Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and the Czech Republic, and have been variously named as coral pink danio, purple danio, neon danio, dyed danio, fluorescent danio, coloured danio, TK2 danio. All have been found, through molecular analysis, to be genetically modified and to contain genes that make the fish artificially brightly coloured and to fluoresce under UV light. These fish have been identified at Border Inspection Posts, through random inspections at retail outlets, and through reports from members of the public.

This new notice is issued for two purposes:

i) **To remind all importers, wholesalers and retailers** that it is an offence in Great Britain for any person to release or market any GM organisms without the consent of the Secretary of State, the Welsh Assembly Government or the Scottish Executive, as provided by Sections 111 and 118 of The Environmental Protection Act 1990.

There are currently no GM fish authorised for release or marketing in Europe or Great Britain, consequently anyone who releases or markets such fish knowing or having reason to believe that they are genetically modified is committing an offence under this legislation, and anyone who commits such an offence may be prosecuted. 'Marketing' includes making GM fish available to other persons, whether or not for payment, so once imported it will be an offence to make available GM fish to anyone else. It is each retailer's responsibility to ensure that they do not market these fish.

ii) **To ask for your cooperation in trying to stop these imports at source:** by forwarding this notice to all of your non-EU suppliers, together with a strong message asking them not to supply genetically modified fish and consequently put you, as a supplier or retailer, at risk of (a) committing an offence under UK law, and (b) losing revenue through loss of sales, possible impact on your reputation, and time spent dealing with the UK authorities.

Further information and pictures of genetically modified *Danio rerio* can be found on the GM Inspectorate website at <http://www.gm-inspectorate.gov.uk/gmfish/> and at <http://www.glofish.com/>.

Anyone who believes they have taken possession of genetically modified fish, requires further information, or who is able to furnish information on the availability of ornamental fish they believe may be genetically modified should contact either:

The GM Inspectorate at the Food and Environment Research Agency on 01904 462223, or email gm-inspectorate@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Or the Fish Health Inspectorate at Cefas Weymouth on 01305 206700, or email fhi@cefafas.co.uk