



AV (HS) 1522

Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore

5 Maxwell Road #03-00 Tower Block MND Complex Singapore 069110
Fax: (65) 6220 6068 Website: <http://www.ava.gov.sg>

Tel: 6471-9992

04 August 2008

Prof Barry Halliwell
National University of Singapore
c/o IACUC office
Centre for Life Sciences (CeLs)
28 Medical Drive
Singapore 117456

Dear Prof Barry Halliwell

**SINGAPORE BIOSAFETY GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)**

The multi-agency Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) was established under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to oversee and to provide scientifically-sound advice on the research and development, production, release, use and handling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Singapore. The objective of the GMAC is to ensure public safety while maintaining an environment that is conducive for commercial uses of GMOs and GMO-derived products.

2 GMAC, as an advisory body has introduced two sets of guidelines for the use of GMOs, i.e. for research purposes and for release of agriculture-related GMOs (eg food). The guidelines can be found at the GMAC website: <http://www.gmac.gov.sg>.

3 GMAC is concerned over GM work in laboratories and would like such facilities to comply with the GMAC guidelines on GMO research in conjunction with their respective Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs). Animal research facilities involved in GM work are advised to comply with the guidelines on assessing risks involved and putting in place mitigation measures before any GM work commences. In addition, any import of GM laboratory animals would require a prior assessment by the facility's IBC. The assessment would have to be forwarded to AVA, when applying for an import permit.

4 For your attention please. Thank you and regards.
Yours sincerely

DR LEOW SU HUA
HEAD, LABORATORY ANIMAL WELFARE BRANCH
for DIRECTOR-GENERAL
AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICES