



THE VOICE OF FOOD RETAIL

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Board Policy Regarding Genetically Modified Food and Biotechnology

Board adopted original policy on October 16, 1999.

Board ratified an updated version on October 21, 2011.

Board adopted revised edition January 11, 2014.

FMI members sell a wide variety of foods throughout the United States and regularly hear from shoppers regarding food labeling issues. With regard to genetically modified (GMO) or genetically engineered foods and biotechnology, Food Marketing Institute believes:

- Retailers and the consumers they serve need one **national standard for non-GMO** food products; that standard must include clear criteria and definitions.
- Consumers should have access to consistent, accurate and relevant information about the food products they buy, and federal labeling standards for non-GMO products, under the purview of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), are essential to avoid the inconsistent and confusing pitfalls of a state by state patchwork labeling system.
- Any GMO labeling program should focus on providing consumers the ability to clearly identify those products that are **not genetically modified** nor contain genetically modified ingredients.
- There is a need to provide unbiased scientific information to the public about genetically modified foods, especially since FDA has determined that genetically engineered foods (GMOs) in the marketplace are safe¹ and do not differ from other foods in any meaningful way. This educational information will be most effective if undertaken as a cooperative effort among the agricultural, retail and manufacturing sectors of the food industry, the government and the scientific and consumer advocacy communities.

¹For more information, go to U.S. Food and Drug Administration Questions & Answers on Food from Genetically Engineered Plants

<http://www.fda.gov/food/foodscienceresearch/biotechnology/ucm346030.htm>