



CASE STUDY 7:

A Customs Officer seeks information about the importation of LMOs

Objective:

Use the BCH Central Portal to access information that might be needed during border control.

References:

Biosafety Protocol

BCH Manual MO04: Finding information in the BCH Central Portal

COP-MOP Decision BS-III/10

Scenario:

A new customs officer in Hungary receives documentation about a shipment of maize that has arrived from a Latin American port. The maize was sourced from Argentina and Brazil, and is destined for food processing in Hungary. The customs officer is unsure if this shipment triggers any specific concerns as regards the importation of LMOs.

Use the BCH and the Protocol to answer the following questions:

- 1, Who should the customs officer contact to seek clarification about Hungary's import requirements for LMOs?
2. Will this shipment be the subject to the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol?
3. What information should be available about the LMO?
4. What information should the customs officer expect to see on the documentation accompanying the maize shipment?



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TRAINER NOTES

Training Objective:

Participants are invited to practice searching for national contacts, decisions and organisms, and to use the BCH as a tool to support border control.

Requirements:

Access to the BCH.

Notes:

Teachable Moment:

- As BCH is continuously evolving, it is advisable for instructors to carry out this exercise beforehand to update the expected results and test different solving paths.
- Parties and non-Parties: Discuss the fact that Brazil is a Party to the Protocol and therefore has to provide information, but that Argentina is not a Party and therefore is not *required* to provide the information on the BCH. Information from non-parties can still be available on BCH
- European Union (EU) as Party to the Protocol and its Member States: Hungary is Party to the Protocol but it is also EU Member State, and EU is also Party to the Protocol. Discuss what decisions are taken on EU level and what on level of Member States and different levels of legislation in the EU. Discuss how this information about decisions and legislation is currently presented on BCH
- This is a good opportunity to reference the LMO Quick-links (<https://bch.cbd.int/resources/quicklinks.shtml>). They are small image files, which can be easily copied and pasted, that identify an LMO through its unique identifier, trade name and a link to the BCH where information on the LMO is available (e.g. LMO characteristics, countries' decisions, risk assessments, etc.). Through the *LMO Quick-links* the BCH page can be easily accessed by either scanning the barcode or by typing the URL in a web browser.