



What is a bioengineered food?

Food that contains genetic material that has been modified through certain laboratory techniques and for which the modification could not be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.

Ingredients and foods that meet the definition of bioengineered (BE) food must include a disclosure on the package or label. BE food labels are for marketing purposes and do not convey any information about the health, safety, or environmental attributes of that food compared to non-bioengineered counterparts.

How will bioengineered food be labeled?



“Contains a bioengineered food ingredient”



A symbol in black and white or color



An electronic or digital link



Phone number that consumers can text

What does “derived from” mean?

You may also see ‘derived from bioengineering’ or ‘ingredients derived from a bioengineered source’ on a label. In this case, the company has chosen to disclose that they are using highly refined ingredients that do not contain detectable modified genetic material in the finished product.



Frequently Asked Questions

What foods require a bioengineered food disclosure?

Highly refined ingredients (like some sugars and oils) and foods that are primarily meat, poultry, or egg products, do not require a bioengineered food disclosure. Food sold by very small food manufacturers and food served in restaurants, food trucks, trains, airplanes, delicatessens and similar retail food establishments are not required to provide a bioengineered food disclosure. They may voluntarily do so.

When will I start seeing the BE symbol on food products?

Food manufacturers and retailers are required to provide the disclosure starting January 1, 2022.

Am I already eating bioengineered foods?

Yes, bioengineered foods are already on the market. Varieties of a few fresh fruit and vegetable crops, such as apples and papaya, as well as certain grains and seeds, such as soy and canola, are bioengineered.

Is there a list of bioengineered foods?

Yes. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

maintains the AMS List of Bioengineered Foods on its website:
<https://go.usa.gov/xvWdc>

Why does AMS use the term “BE”?

Bioengineered foods include certain types of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Congress used the term BE when they passed the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (NBFDS). Although companies may use the terms “Genetically Modified Organism,” “GMO” and “Genetic Engineering” on their labels, they must use “bioengineered food” or “contains a bioengineered food

ingredient(s)” to comply with the NBFDS.

How do I file a complaint if a product doesn’t include a bioengineered disclosure?

Starting January 1, 2022, you can file a complaint on the AMS website. Some products on the market may voluntarily include the disclosure before that date. Closer to this compliance date, AMS will post the process for making a complaint on its website. Please continue to check the website for updates and more information:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/be>