

This is a provisional English translation of an excerpt from the original full report.

Safety Assessment Report

Short stature maize MON94804 line

(Genetically Modified Feed)

Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ)
April 2025

ABSTRACT

The FSCJ conducted a safety assessment of “Short stature maize MON94804 line.” This line was developed by introducing the *GA20ox*_SUP sequence into the dent maize line HCL301 (*Zea mays subsp. mays* (L.) *Illitis*) as a host. This sequence consists of a 21-base pair sequence derived from the coding regions of the maize genes *ZmGA20ox3* and *ZmGA20ox5*, its inverted repeat sequence, along with three *Osa-miR1425* fragments from rice (*Oryza sativa*). The *GA20ox*_SUP RNA, transcribed from the *GA20ox*_SUP sequence, undergoes RNA interference (RNAi), thereby suppressing the expression of the endogenous *ZmGA20ox3* and *ZmGA20ox5* genes in maize. This gene suppression reduces gibberellin levels in the stem, resulting in shorter internodes and reduced culm length, thereby conferring a reduced plant height trait.

The assessment, conducted referring to the “Stance of Safety Assessments of Genetically Modified Feed and Feed Additives¹”, indicated that no additional harmful substances were produced in this line, leading to the conclusion that such substances could not transfer into meat, milk, eggs, or other livestock products. Furthermore, it is also deemed highly unlikely that components resulting from this genetic modification could be converted into or accumulated as harmful substances in livestock products, or that additional harmful substances could be generated by these components interacting with the metabolic systems of livestock.

Considering the above, it was deemed unnecessary to reconduct a safety assessment in reference to the “Standards for the Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Foods (Seed Plants)²”. It has been concluded that livestock products derived from animals fed this short stature maize MON94804 line are unlikely to pose concerns relevant to human health.

¹ Decision of FSCJ dated May 6, 2004

² Decision of FSCJ dated January 29, 2004