



The Hershey Company Position Statement on GMO Disclosures

NOVEMBER 2021

At the Hershey Company, safety and quality are always at the forefront when we are selecting the ingredients used to make our products. All our ingredients meet rigorous internal standards that comply with the regulations of the countries in which they are sold.

Farmers have used selective breeding techniques for thousands of years to improve the quality and productivity of food crops. Today, modern methods of plant biotechnology enable plant geneticists to improve the genetic makeup of food crops more rapidly than is possible through traditional selective breeding techniques, creating a more reliable food supply. For example, crops may be more resistant to insects and weeds or better able to withstand disease, reducing the need for insecticides and herbicides. These crops allow for stronger yields and less loss which reduces food insecurity around the world. Other benefits may include longer shelf life, better appearance and enhanced nutrition.

Food crops modified using modern genetic techniques—often referred to as GMO crops or GMOs—have been planted widely since the 1990s. In the United States, the terms GMO and bioengineered or BE are sometimes used interchangeably. Scientific and regulatory agencies around the world, including the World Health Organization, The European Food Safety Authority, the U.S. American Medical Association, Health Canada, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, have examined GMO or bioengineered crops in widespread commercial production and have concluded that they are safe for human consumption. In the United States, the USDA estimates that over 94% of all soybeans, 92% of corn, and 99.9% of sugar beets comes from GMO plants.

Although GMO food ingredients are safe and used across the world, there is no universal agreement on whether their presence in food products should be disclosed and, if so, how. As a result, the labeling requirements for food products that contain GMO ingredients vary from country to country.

We support the disclosure of GMO ingredients, and fully comply with the applicable regulations for the countries in which our products are sold. In the US, we have chosen to use SmartLabel® as the primary tool to provide consumers easy access to information about our products, including the use of BE and BE derived ingredients under the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. By scanning the QR Code on our US product packages, SmartLabel® puts more detailed information than could ever fit on a package right at your fingertips. For items that do not have a QR Code, consumers will find BE disclosure information on the label if it is required, either as text or through a logo specified by the USDA as part of the Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. Our global consumers can access our website or contact the consumer relations team to find out more about our products.





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We know that some consumers prefer to avoid products that contain GMO ingredients. For those consumers, we offer a range of products that do not contain them. In the US, we offer several products that are Non-GMO Project Verified and/or USDA Organic including: barkTHINS snacking chocolate, Hershey's Natural Unsweetened Cocoa, Hershey's Simply 5 Syrup, SkinnyPop popcorn, Paqui Tortilla Chips, and several flavors of Pirate's Booty snack puffs.

Producing high quality products with ingredients that are safe for our consumers and for the environment has always been our goal at Hershey.

