



**Wildlife Regulatory Branch  
Import & Export Division**

Sembawang Research Station, Lorong Chencharu,  
Singapore 769194 Tel: (65) 67519804 Fax: (65) 67595043

**IMMEDIATE**

Our Ref: WRB/OFS/L03/012

DID: 6751 9802

FAX: 6759 5043

22 Jul 03

To: Ornamental Fish Importers

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED FISH OR TRANSGENIC FISH**

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore would like to remind all ornamental fish traders that the import of genetically modified fish requires approval from the AVA prior to import.

2. Under Section 9 of the Animals and Birds Act. Rev 2002, any person who imports or possesses genetically modified or transgenic fish without prior written consent from the Director-General, AVA will have committed an offence under the Act. The penalty for the offence upon conviction is a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or an imprisonment term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

3. In brief, to import genetically modified or transgenic fish into Singapore for commercial release, the importer must first seek the approval of AVA under the oversight of the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC). GMAC will assess the risks posed by the genetically modified products and advise AVA on the safety of the products. When the genetically modified fish has also been assessed to be safe by AVA, it can then be imported into Singapore with a permit issued by the AVA. Please note that only AVA-licensed ornamental fish importers are allowed to import the fish.

5 If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Poh Yew Kwang  
Senior AVA Officer  
Wildlife Regulatory Branch  
for Director-General, Agri-Food and Veterinary Services