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# First GM canola from trial crops delivered

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The first delivery of genetically modified canola was received at the CBH Metro Grain Centre yesterday with assurances by the bulk handler that all segregation guidelines would be met.

About 10.5 tonnes of GM canola from the Department of Agriculture research site in Geraldton, harvested last Friday, was delivered.

CBH senior supply chain quality manager Matthew Mews said the internal supply chain would be cleaned before and after each load of GM canola to ensure there was no mixing of GM and non-GM grain.

“With GM canola we will be paying particular attention after loading to ensure cleanliness,” he said. “It will then be placed in a secure silo. CBH has a proven track record of segregating grain, especially

grain that is bound for a niche market, such as organic grain.”

But Julie Newman, from the Network of Concerned Farmers, said no risk management or guarantee of liability for non-GM growers had been offered if cross-contamination or mixing of grain occurred.

“We are fighting to ensure non-GM farmers are not adversely impacted and do not lose markets if contamination occurs,” she said.

Seventeen trial crops ranging from 30ha to 70ha are expected to be harvested in two weeks.

Agriculture Minister Terry Redman said an independent report would be compiled after the completion of the trial to decide if an exemption on GM canola would be granted for the 2010-11 season.



Testing time: Matthew Mews, senior supply chain quality manager, checks a sample from the first load of GM canola yesterday.

Picture: Nic Ellis