

In simplified language, “genetic modification”, as defined in the Warrant, is:

- the deletion, change or moving of genes within an organism, or
- the transfer of genes from one organism to another, or
- the modification of existing genes or the construction of new genes and their incorporation into any organism.

The Commission considers the term “genetic modification” to be equivalent to and interchangeable with “genetic engineering”.

In terms of the Warrant, the Commission’s inquiry does not extend to the generation of organisms using standard breeding techniques, including cloning, hybridisation or controlled pollination (as these do not involve modification of existing genes). Nor does it cover mutagenesis not involving genetic engineering techniques.

For a fuller discussion of the meaning of genetic modification, see *Genetic Modification: an overview for non-scientists* on pages 362 to 363 of the Reference section of the Report.