

## GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

**The general seed certification standards apply to all crops under certification. In addition to the General Standards, there are specific requirements for each crop being certified.**

### **I. STATE LAW AUTHORIZING CERTIFICATION OF SEEDS**

A. An act of the 1935 Indiana State Legislature provides for State Certification of seeds, plants or plant parts. The detailed law, as approved on March 12, 1935, at the 79th session may be found on Chapter 248, page 1,257 of the Act.

B. Under the power authorized by this act, administration is vested in the Director of Purdue University Agricultural Research Programs, who is empowered to adopt such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary and who may designate an agency to carry on Seed Certification in Indiana. The Indiana Crop Improvement Association has been so designated since the Act was passed in 1935.

C. ICIA may administer AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) standards in cases where needed standards are not listed in the ICIA Standards Handbook.

### **II. PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION**

A. The purpose of certification is to provide a system whereby newly developed public and private crop varieties can be increased into sufficient quantities for distribution to the Indiana farmer.

B. The primary objective of certifying seed is to maintain the genetic purity and identity of the seed from the time it leaves the plant breeder until it is available to the farmer.

C. Other quality factors, such as germination, pure seed, freedom from prohibited noxious weed seeds, other crop seeds, and inert matter are important in providing high quality seed, but will not be cause for rejecting the seed for certification. All seed lots will be tested for these quality factors and the results will be reported to the seedsmen for labeling purposes, as the State Seed Law requires all seed offered for sale to be labeled.

### **III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BRINGING VARIETIES INTO CERTIFICATION**

A. The eligibility requirements for varieties defined in AOSCA's Genetic Certification Standards shall be observed in determining variety eligibility. The Certifying Agency (ICIA) may admit varieties into Seed Certification after

favorable action by one or more of the following:

1. National Variety Review Board
  2. U.S. Plant Variety Protection Office (subject to paragraph B)
  3. A State Variety Review Board
  4. Varieties eligible for certification under OECD seed schemes shall be considered eligible for certification.
- B. The issuance of a certificate by the U.S. Plant Variety Protection office does enable the ICIA to declare a variety eligible for certification in Indiana provided the following information is provided to the Certifying Agency:
1. Detailed description of the variety
  2. Procedure for maintaining seedstocks
  3. Number of generations variety may be multiplied in certification system
  4. Restrictions, if any, with respect to geographic area of seed production, age of stand, or other factors affecting genetic purity
  5. Notification if variety is protected under Title V of the Federal Seed Act
- C. The ICIA encourages, whenever possible, that varieties be submitted to the appropriate National Variety Review Board for action. The ICIA will provide information relative to applying to a National Review Board.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. **VARIETY** - An assemblage of cultivated individuals which are distinguished by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical or others) significant for the purposes of agriculture, and which retain their distinguishing features when reproduced or reconstituted.
- B. **CLASSES OF SEED RECOGNIZED IN SEED CERTIFICATION**
1. **Breeder Seed** - is produced and controlled by the originating or sponsoring plant breeding institution, firm, or individual. The seed may occur from natural selection or through systematic plant breeding programs and shall be grown and handled to maintain its original genetic purity and identity.
  2. **Foundation Seed** - shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed. Foundation seed of public developed varieties shall be grown exclusively by Agricultural Alumni Seed Improvement Association in Indiana. Foundation seed of private developed varieties may be grown by the owner or originator of the variety or their designee. Foundation seed shall be grown and handled to maintain its genetic purity and identity.

3. **Registered Seed** - shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed. It may be grown by anyone interested in producing certified seed. It shall be handled to maintain its genetic purity and identity.

4. **Certified Seed** - shall be the progeny of Breeder, Foundation, and Registered seed. It shall be handled to maintain its genetic purity and identity.

5. **Tested Seed** - is a class of propagating materials that shall be the progeny of plants whose parentage has been tested and has proven genetic superiority or possesses distinctive traits for which the heritability is stable, as defined by the certifying agency, but for which a variety has not been named or released. This seed must be produced so as to assure genetic purity and identity.

6. **Selected Seed** - is a class of propagating materials that shall be the progeny of phenotypically selected plants of untested parentage that have promise but no proof of genetic superiority of distinctive traits.

7. **Source-identified** - is a class of propagating materials collected from natural stands, seed production areas, seed fields, or orchards where no selection or testing of the parent population has been conducted.

- C. **OTHER VARIETIES AND OFFTYPES** - Plants or seeds which do not conform to the characteristics of a variety as described by the breeder. They do not include variations which are characteristic of the variety.
- D. **OPEN POLLINATION** - Open pollinated seed is seed produced as a result of natural pollination as opposed to controlled pollination such as detasseling, cytoplasmic male sterility, self-incompatibility, or similar processes.

## **V. LIMITED GENERATION SYSTEM**

The number of generations through which a variety may be multiplied shall be limited to that specified by the originating breeder or owner of the variety and shall not exceed two generations beyond the Foundation seed class with the following exceptions:

- A. Recertification of the Certified Class may be permitted for older varieties where Foundation seed is not available or being maintained.
- B. The production of an additional generation of the Certified Class may be permitted on a one-year basis, when an emergency is declared prior to the planting season by the Certifying Agency, stating that Foundation and Registered seed supplies are not available or inadequate to plant the needed Certified acreage of the variety.

- C. Permission to recertify the Certified Class must be obtained from the originating or sponsoring plant breeder, institution, firm or owner of the variety, if existent. The additional generation of Certified seed to meet the emergency need is ineligible for recertification.

## **VI. PROCEDURE FOR CERTIFYING SEED**

- A. New applicants must: (prior to planting the crop)
  - 1. Contact: Indiana Crop Improvement Association  
7700 Stockwell Road  
Lafayette IN 47909  
(765) 523-2535
  - 2. Request a new membership application. Fill out the application form and return it to the ICIA office.
  - 3. Make arrangements to be visited by an ICIA management staff member.
  - 4. Become familiar with the Seed Certification Standards.
  - 5. Be familiar with the aims and purposes of certification and be willing to abide by the standards established to accomplish these aims and purposes.
  - 6. Have available, or access to, necessary equipment and storage facilities to produce, condition and store seed to maintain genetic purity and identity.
  - 7. Be willing to follow those production, conditioning, storage, and merchandising practices that will enhance the image of certified seed to maintain the best interest of the Association, and maintain the genetic purity of the seed.
- B. New and previous applicants must:
  - 1. Plant seed eligible for certification
    - a. Foundation or Registered classes
    - b. Certified class (Refer to V, A-B-C above)
  - 2. In those cases where the seed planted for the production of Foundation, Registered or Certified seed is obtained from another person, documentary evidence which is the certification tag and/or any supporting evidence required of sale and purchase must be submitted to the certifying agency to establish a source of seed.
  - 3. In those cases where the seedstock planted is from the applicant's own production, the seed shall have met all requirements for final certification but need not be bagged or tagged. Bins and containers shall be clearly identified.
  - 4. Follow land and isolation requirements for the crop to be certified.

5. Applicants shall use necessary precautions to prevent contamination and/or mixtures during planting by properly cleaning all equipment.
6. Submit application information to the ICIA office.
  - a. Each new and previous applicant will receive application information by mail.
    - 1) Application information for small grains, grasses and legumes will be mailed to applicants on or prior to April 15 and **are due May 15.**
    - 2) Application forms for corn and grain sorghum will be mailed to applicants on or prior to May 15 and **are due June 15.**
    - 3) Application information for soybeans will be mailed to applicants on or prior to June 1 and **are due July 1.**
  - b. Application information received after the due date will be charged a late fee. The postmark date will be used in determining late applications.
  - c. Application information received with errors and/or omissions will not be processed until corrections are received.
  - d. No fields will be inspected until application information has been submitted and processed.
  - e. Applicants applying for certification after inspection (fall inspection for soybeans) is underway, will be charged an additional fee per field.
7. The applicant's signature on the application for certification or other form shall be affidavit of the following:
  - a. That the information submitted for verification of seed eligibility is representative of the total amount of seed used and that the seed verified was planted on the field described on the application.
  - b. That all equipment involved with planting, harvesting, or other handling, was or will be adequately cleaned to maintain genetic purity of the seed.
  - c. That the identity of the seed will be maintained from harvest to the time it leaves the applicant's possession through the use of numbers or some other identification system.

#### C. CANCELLATION OF APPLICATIONS

An applicant may withdraw or cancel an application or any portion of an application any time prior to field inspection. The field fee and the acreage fee will be refunded if notification is given prior to the inspector arriving to inspect the field. If the inspector is notified of cancellation after driving to the field and it is the only field to be inspected, then only the acreage fee will be refunded. No fees will be refunded once a field has been inspected.

- D. All Foundation, Registered, and Certified classes of seed shall be field inspected and laboratory inspected to assure that genetic purity and identity are being maintained.

## **VII. CERTIFICATION FEES**

- A. Certification fees are designed to cover the costs of one field inspection (depending upon crop); one genetic purity exam on unclean sample; and a genetic purity exam, physical purity test and one warm germination test on a final certification sample - per 1,500 bushel seed lot tested (excluding corn).
  - 1. An applicant may request one inspector drawn sample (at no cost) for each seed lot that fails to meet genetic purity standards for final certification.
  - 2. Additional inspector drawn samples may be requested by the applicant with charges based on the actual costs of the trip plus the cost of any tests requested.
  - 3. All OECD tags and labels will be assessed a per label certification fee and an OECD/AOSCA fee.

## **VIII. FIELD INSPECTION**

- A. The certifying agency or its designee shall make one or more field inspections per field depending upon when the genetic purity and identity can best be determined.
  - 1. The inspector shall cross each field adequately to accurately evaluate the genetic purity and identity of the field.
  - 2. A field inspection report will be left with the applicant after each field has been inspected.
- B. Handling of the crop prior to inspection  
Applicants should rogue each field for off-type plants prior to inspection. Off-type plants should be carried out of the field to prevent contamination.
- C. Isolation and land requirements  
All fields shall meet the isolation and land requirements for the specific crop being certified to prevent cross-pollination, varietal mixtures and mechanical mixtures. (See specific requirements for each crop.)
- D. Reinspection of fields  
Fields failing to meet genetic purity standards during the first inspection may be rogued. The applicant may then request reinspection of the field. A charge will be made for each reinspection.

- E. Field rejection
1. If an applicant's field fails to meet certification standards, he may appeal the rejection by notifying the certification office and requesting a hearing by the appropriate crop committee and the Board of Directors.
  2. Each field for which certification is requested should show evidence of good management and should show that reasonable precaution has been taken to control seed-borne diseases, contaminating crops and objectionable weeds, the seeds of which are indistinguishable or inseparable with available cleaning equipment from seed of the particular crop being inspected. Certification could be denied for any condition that prevents adequate evaluation for genetic purity and identity, (i.e. weeds, contaminating crop kinds, disease, lodging, etc.)
- F. Unit of certification
- A field is defined as an area occupied by one crop which is covered by one application or isolation, and/or inspection report, and is undivided by fences, ditches (sod waterways excepted), highways, public roadways, other crops (except strips no more than 200 feet wide of another crop dividing the crop for certification within the boundaries of the same field), or natural barriers. When it is necessary during corn inspection (due to large acreage) for any portion of the field to be inspected separately as a result of variation in planting date, that portion involved shall be handled as a separate field.

## **IX. HARVESTING AND CONDITIONING**

- A. Preventing mixtures
- Applicants shall use necessary precautions to prevent contamination and/or mixtures during harvest and conditioning by properly cleaning all equipment before harvest and between varieties being harvested and conditioned.
- B. Harvesting prior to inspection
1. Fields harvested prior to being field inspected are automatically ineligible for certification.
  2. No field should be harvested until the applicant has a copy of the field inspection report to verify that the field has been inspected.
  3. Applicants must provide inspectors of the certification office a 24-hour notice prior to harvest if the field is ready for harvest but has not been inspected.
- C. Conditioning Certified Seed

To be eligible for final certification, all seed shall be conditioned by one of the following:

1. Applicant's own equipment
2. An approved conditioning plant which may be either:
  - a. Conditioning equipment of another Indiana Certified Seed producer that has been inspected and approved by the certifying agency.
  - b. A commercial seed cleaning plant in Indiana that has been approved for cleaning certified seed.
  - c. Out-of-state seed cleaning plants which have been inspected and approved by the Indiana Crop Improvement Association.
3. Growers are required to report to the Indiana Crop Improvement Association with regard to where and by whom their seed was conditioned.
4. The following requirements must be met by conditioners of all classes of certified seed:
  - a. Facilities shall be available to perform conditioning without introducing admixtures.
  - b. Identity of the seed must be maintained at all times.
  - c. Records of all operations relating to certification shall be complete and adequate to account for all incoming seed and final disposition of seed.
  - d. Conditioners shall permit inspection of the plant and all records by the certifying agency pertaining to the conditioning of certified seed.
  - e. Conditioners shall designate an individual who shall be responsible to the certifying agency for performing such duties as may be required by the certifying agency.

## **X. ESTABLISHING SEED LOTS**

- A. Every homogenous quantity of seed must have a lot number.
- B. A seed lot is defined as a designated portion of seed from one or more fields and/or storage bins. The lot shall not exceed 1500 bushels or units unless other arrangements and approval is granted by the certifying agency.
- C. If a lot is a combination of seed from more than one field, bin, or other storage area, the applicant must notify the certification agency of the fields and bins represented in the seed lot.
- D. Seed lots of the same variety and class may be combined and the class retained. If lots of different classes are combined, the lowest class shall be applied to the resultant lot.



## XI. SEED SAMPLING

- A. Sampling of conditioned seed lots for final certification.
1. Seed samples representing seed lots from approved field or fields must be submitted to the ICIA laboratory for final certification of the lot.
  2. A seedsman may draw the sample for final certification unless other provisions have been made or limitations established by the ICIA. The applicant's signature on the application or other form for certification shall be affidavit that he is familiar with and will draw all samples representing seed from the field or fields represented on the application in accordance with the agency's approved sampling procedures. If possession of the seed is transferred from the applicant to another party for conditioning, the responsibility for sampling shall likewise be transferred.
  3. The sample must represent the entire lot or at least 200 bushels or 25% of the entire lot - whichever is less.
  4. Samples for final certification shall be at least two pounds in size and must be submitted in official sample bags provided by the ICIA. All necessary information shall be written in the blanks provided on the bag.
  5. When the sample being submitted for final certification is treated, the applicant shall also submit an untreated (machine conditioned) sample for the genetic purity test. (For soybeans and oats only).
  6. Sampling by ICIA personnel
    - a. An applicant may request one inspector drawn sample at no cost for each seed lot that fails to meet genetic purity standards in the laboratory.
    - b. Any sampling may be requested by the seedsman with charges based on an hourly rate, inspector's mileage and the cost of any tests requested.
    - c. The certification agency may re-sample any lot of seed after certification has been granted.
- B. Sampling of unconditioned lots or conditioned lots not for certification.
1. Uncleaned or conditioned seed may be submitted for informational testing at any time after harvest.
  2. The results of these tests are for information only and do not constitute approval for final certification.
- C. Carryover Seed
1. Samples of carryover Foundation and Registered seed must be submitted to the ICIA during the year prior to use in order to remain eligible as a seedstock in the certification program.
  2. Any seed carried over from one season to the next must be retested for germination and labeled with the current germination and test date before being offered for sale. (Required by Federal and State laws.) This sampling and testing need not be done by the ICIA.

3. The certification tags affixed to bags of carryover certified seed need not be replaced if the bags have remained properly sealed and there is no analysis data on the certification tag.

D. **Approved Sampling Procedures**

1. Proper sampling is extremely important if reliable test results are to be obtained and for the sample to be representative of the entire lot.

a. In order to secure a representative sample, equal portions shall be taken from evenly distributed parts of the quantity of seed to be sampled. Access shall be had to all parts of that quantity.

b. A probe or trier long enough to sample all portions of the bag or bulk should be used for free-flowing seed.

c. Non-free-flowing seed, such as certain grasses and other seeds difficult to sample with probe or trier, shall be sampled by thrusting the hand into the bag or bulk and withdrawing representative portions. The hand is inserted in the open position and the fingers are held closely together while the hand is being inserted and the portion withdrawn.

d. All samples shall be properly identified and labeled as they are drawn.

e. As the seed is sampled, each portion shall be examined. If there appears to be a lack of uniformity, the portions shall not be combined, but shall be retained separately for laboratory analysis. If the portions appear uniform, they shall be combined to form a composite sample.

f. **Mixing samples** - Mix sample in bucket or similar container well before pouring into plastic sample bag. You may have more seed than is needed for filling the bag. You can divide the sample still further by pouring  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of it to the side while the other portion fills the bag. Fill the sample bag and allow space for closing.

2. **Bag Sampling**

Insert the probe, in the closed position, from corner to corner, into the bag. The bag should be nearly horizontal. Open, fill and close the probe and remove. Seedsmen may choose to open bags. Threads can be broken at the top where the bag has been sewn together if necessary. Probe a minimum of 5 bags. If you have more than 50 bags in the lot, probe one bag for each 10 present. In large lots a maximum of 30 bags sampled will be sufficient. At times it may be necessary to move bags of seed with a forklift to allow proper sampling. Dump each probe into a bucket for each lot sampled.

3. Bulk Sampling

Bulk seeds shall be sampled by inserting a long probe or thrusting the hand into the bulk, as circumstances require, in at least seven uniformly distributed parts of the quantity being sampled.

4. Sampling During Conditioning

a. Automatic mechanical devices may be used to continually or intermittently draw representative samples as a seed lot is conditioned.

b. Portions of cleaned seed may be drawn intermittently by hand as seed is conditioned to form the composite, representative sample for the lot.

**XII. SEED TESTING**

A. All seed shall be analyzed in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the most recent edition of “Rules for Testing Seed” issued by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA).

B. Seed testing to determine genetic purity for final certification is based on conditioned seed that has been uniformly conditioned to minimize variation and preserve genetic purity.

C. All samples for final certification are tested for genetic purity and warm germination as stated in Section VII,A. In addition the ICIA provides mechanical purity and moisture tests on all final certification samples which may be used for labeling purposes.

**XIII. BAGGING SEED**

A. Foundation seed and the first multiplication from Foundation seed of a newly released variety shall be sold in new bags.

B. It is strongly recommended that all certified seed be bagged in new bags.

C. If seed is packaged in bags bearing the official emblem of seed certification or any other statement(s) directly or indirectly implying certification and the seed fails to meet final certification standards, the emblem or statement(s) must be completely obliterated prior to sale or the seed rebagged in bags not implying certification.

**XIV. LABELING SEED**

A. All certified seed, when offered for sale, shall have an official

certification label affixed to each container, except when the seed is sold under the Bulk Retail Sales Certificate (see XV Bulk Seed Movement and Sale). Labels for each class of certified seed shall be identified as follows:

1. Breeder Seed - manila
  2. Foundation Seed - white
  3. Registered Seed - light purple
  4. Certified Seed - light blue
  5. Source Identified Seed - yellow
- B. All certification tags will be issued by the certifying agency and printed with the following information: (no changes by the applicant are permitted)
1. Variety name
  2. Crop
  3. Producer number
  4. Lot number
    - a. Labels shall be attached to containers in a manner that prevents removal and reattachment.
    - b. The certification label may be printed directly on the container when an accounting of the containers is made to the certifying agency.
- C. Analysis Tags
1. In addition to the certification tag, all seed offered for sale must have an analysis label affixed to each bag as required by Federal and State Seed Laws.
    - a. The analysis tag must include:
      1. Seedsman's name
      2. Address
      3. Variety
      4. Kind
      5. Lot number
      6. Min. pure seed \_\_\_\_%
      7. Inert Matter \_\_\_\_%
      8. Crop seeds \_\_\_\_%
      9. Weed seeds \_\_\_\_%
      10. Noxious weeds present
      11. Min. germination \_\_\_\_%
      12. Hard seeds \_\_\_\_%
      13. Germination test \_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_
      14. Origin
  2. The responsibility for printing the analysis label lies with the applicant.
    - a. The applicant may purchase these analysis tags from the State Seed Commissioner's Office, 175 S. University Street, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2063

b. The applicant may use personalized analysis labels if the applicant holds a current Indiana Seed Permit with the State Seed Commissioner's office.

D. Plant Variety Protection Statement (PVP- 1994)

1. Applicants merchandising protected varieties are required under the PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION ACT to inform the purchaser that the variety is protected.

a. If the variety is protected without the certification option, the following wording is suggested:

- 1) Before certificate of protection is issued:  
"UNAUTHORIZED PROPAGATION PROHIBITED"  
"APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION APPLIED FOR"
- 2) After certificate of protection is issued:  
"UNAUTHORIZED PROPAGATION PROHIBITED"  
"U.S. PROTECTED VARIETY"

b. If the variety is protected with the certification option, the following wording is suggested:

- 1) Before certificate of protection is issued:  
"UNAUTHORIZED PROPAGATION PROHIBITED"  
"APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION APPLIED FOR"  
"SEED OF THIS VARIETY MUST BE SOLD BY VARIETY NAME ONLY, AS A CLASS OF CERTIFIED SEED"
- 2) After certificate of protection is issued:  
"UNAUTHORIZED PROPAGATION PROHIBITED"  
"U.S. PROTECTED VARIETY"  
"SEED OF THIS VARIETY MUST BE SOLD BY VARIETY NAME ONLY, AS A CLASS OF CERTIFIED SEED"

2. For all protected, certified varieties, the ICIA automatically issues certified tags with the appropriate statement preprinted. This service eliminates the need for a separate PVP tag.

3. For further information about U.S. Plant Variety Protection, contact the ICIA office or State Seed Chemist's office.

E. Labeling treated seed

The State Seed Law requires that treated seed be labeled with the following information:

1. A word or statement indicating the seed has been treated.
2. The commonly accepted coined chemical or abbreviated chemical or generic name of the applied substance.
3. If the substance in the amount present with the seed is harmful to human or other vertebrate animals, a caution statement such as "Do Not Use For Food Or Feed Or Oil Purposes". The Caution for mercurials

and similarly toxic substances shall be “Poison” either a statement or symbol.

F. Complying with the Federal and State Seed Laws

1. Responsibility for any obligations, other than those concerned with certification, arising from the sale or shipment of seed which has been certified rests with the grower or subsequent handler making the sale or shipment.

2. Indiana State seed tags can be used to comply with the Indiana State Seed Law. The seedsman may obtain a permit to use a private label. Under this system the inspection fee is paid quarterly by reporting sales in Indiana. Information about State and Federal Seed Laws, tags and permits may be obtained from the State Seed Commissioner’s Office, 175 S. University Street, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2063, phone 765/494-1557.

G. Contaminating Crops and Weeds

1. Under the Indiana Seed Law, certain weeds are classified as “Prohibited” and “Restricted” noxious. The law prohibits the sale of crop seeds containing any prohibited noxious weed seeds. Seed may not be sold with more than ¼ of 1% by weight of restricted noxious weed seeds. Seed cannot be sold if it contains more than 2½ % of all weed seeds.

a. The following is a list of these noxious weeds:

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEEDS

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Johnsongrass & Sorghum alnum (*Sorghum halepense*)

Perennial peppergrass (*Lepidium draba*)

Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)

Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*)

Wild garlic & Wild onion (*Allium* spp.)

Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)

RESTRICTED NOXIOUS WEEDS

Bitter wintercress (*Barbarea vulgaris*)

Buckhorn (*Plantago lanceolata*)

Corncockle (*Argrostemma githago*)

Curled dock (*Rume crispus*)

Dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.)

Field peppergrass (*Lepidium campestre*)

Giant foxtail (*Setaria faberi*)

Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*)

Mustard (*Brassica arvensis*)

Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)  
French weed or Pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*)  
Cocklebur (*Xanthium pensylvanicum*)  
Eastern black nightshade (*Solanum ptycanthum*)

## **XV. BULK SEED MOVEMENT AND SALE**

- A. Bulk transfer of unconditioned, field inspected seed.
1. A seed lot that has met field inspection standards for certification may be transferred in bulk to another certified seed producer or approved conditioner for conditioning and completion of certification.
  2. BEFORE the bulk unconditioned field inspected seed is moved, producers must request a bulk transfer certificate from the Certification Agency.
    - a. The certificate is completed, signed by the seedsman and returned to the Certification Agency.
    - b. Upon approval, copies will be distributed to the buyer and seller of the seed.
    - c. In the case of seed being transferred out of Indiana, a copy of the Bulk Transfer Certificate will be forwarded to the certifying agency in the state where the seed is being shipped.
  3. Out of State bulk transfers of unconditioned seed are permitted.
  4. A quantity of unconditioned seed can be bulk transferred only one time from producer to conditioner unless prior notification and approval is granted by the Certification Agency.
- B. Bulk sale of conditioned Certified Seed.
1. Only the Certified class of small grains and soybeans meeting all certification standards may be sold in the bulk.
  2. Bulk sales of certified seed shall use the following criteria:
    - a. Seed sold in bulk shall never be eligible for recertification.
    - b. Bulk sales may be made only by a certified seed producer or approved bulk retail facility directly to the consumer or applicator who will be planting the seed, except that an approved bulk retail facility may purchase bulk certified seed from a certified seed producer for resale to a consumer. A maximum of two physical transfers are permitted after the seed lot has been certified.
    - c. A fee per unit will be assessed for all bulk seed sold.
    - d. All bulk certified seed sold must be properly labeled.
      1. Bulk Retail Sales Certificates may be used. These certificates contain analysis and germination information.
      2. Regular certification tags may be used with agency approval and providing such tags are affixed to an invoice or sales receipt. All seed lot sales labeled in this manner shall be reported to the agency in an approved manner.

3. Copies of certificates or other approved labeling reports from all sales shall be provided to the agency on or before December 15 for fall seeded crops, and on or before August 15 for spring seeded crops.

e. All bulk sales shall be subject to the labeling and fee provisions of the Indiana Seed Law.

f. ICIA makes no guarantee of this lot of seed. It is the seller's responsibility to supply seed that is representative of the seed tested and approved for certification.

C. Bulk Retail Facility Standards

1. A Bulk Retail Facility is an entity located in Indiana approved to purchase certified seed in the bulk from a certified seed producer and resell it to a final consumer for planting.

a. A person or business located in the state of Indiana must annually apply to ICIA for inspection and approval.

b. An annual fee will be assessed. A certificate will be issued upon approval.

c. Application must be made by May 1 to be included in the seed directory.

d. Each facility shall be inspected annually by ICIA. A certificate will be issued upon approval.

2. Requirements:

a. Facilities:

1. A separate bin for each variety is required which cannot be contaminated by an outside source. Each bin must be identified by the variety it is to store and handle.

2. Loading and conveying devices that can be adequately cleaned between handling different varieties are required. If any equipment in the system in any way comes in contact with seed of more than one variety, it must be adequately cleaned to prevent cross contamination.

3. Legal scales must be available to accurately determine the amount of each seed sale.



- b. Records:
  1. Complete and up to date records must be maintained which include purchaser, amount of seed, date of sale, variety, and lot number.
  2. Bulk Retail Facilities must have copies of appropriate Bulk Retail Sales Certificates to validate seed purchased for resale.
  
- c. Designated representative:  
An individual at each Bulk Retail Facility shall be designated as responsible for all records and activities relating to the distribution of bulk certified seed from that site. The designated representative shall be familiar with the Certified Bulk Retail Facilities program standards and guidelines.
  
- d. Other:
  1. Samples of each lot as offered for sale shall be submitted to ICIA for germination testing.
  2. The applicant is responsible for meeting all requirements listed in the ICIA Bulk Retail Facility Standards and maintaining the varietal purity and quality of the seed purchased for re-sale through the Bulk Retail Facility.

## **XVI. CERTIFIED BLENDS**

- A. Certification of blends  
A seed blend shall be defined as the mechanical combination of two or more certified varieties.
- B. Specific blend requirements
  1. Only those blends and blenders that have been approved by the certifying agency shall be accepted under this program.
  2. The formula for the blend shall be on file with the certifying agency and shall not vary between lots and between years.
  3. Permission to use a protected variety in a blend must be obtained from the owner of the variety. This evidence must be submitted by the blender to the certifying agency.
  4. Only certified seed of each of the component varieties shall be used in a blend. Proof of certified seed used must be submitted to the certifying agency.
  5. The seed blender must demonstrate the ability to mechanically blend varieties within specified tolerances.
  6. The smallest percentage of a component used in a blend shall exceed 5%. No more than four (4) components (varieties) may be used in a blend. The tolerance shall be plus or minus 5% by weight of the whole for each component.
  7. Any additional expenses incurred for sampling, testing, tagging, etc.,

shall be paid by the blender.

8. Representative samples of all certified blends shall be subject to a post-season growout test conducted by the certifying agency to check component percentages.

C. Labeling

1. The certifying agency must specify on the label that the seed is a blend.
2. The blend certification tag must carry the following information:
  - a. Kind
  - b. Blend name or designation
  - c. Lot number
  - d. Approved blender
3. The blender has the option of stating the names of the varietal components and proportions on the label.

**XVII. INTERAGENCY CERTIFICATION**

A. Interagency certification is the participation of two or more official certifying agencies in performing the services required to certify the same lot or lots of seed. The methods and standards employed in each step of the interagency certification process are basically the same as those used when certification is completed by a single agency. In the absence of Indiana standards, the ICIA will apply AOSCA minimum genetic standards.

B. Evidence of Seed Eligibility

1. Seed to be recognized for interagency certification must be received in bags or containers carrying official certification tags or labels or evidence of its eligibility, such as an authorized bulk transfer certificate, from another certifying agency.
2. The following minimum information shall be provided:
  - a. Variety and kind
  - b. Quantity of seed
  - c. Class of seed
  - d. Lot number traceable to previous certifying agency's records
3. Only those varieties approved for certification by a member agency of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies will be eligible.

C. Prior Approval of Cooperating Certification Agencies

The Indiana Crop Improvement Association shall not require advance approval of another agency (within the limits of number B above) to engage in interagency certification activities, providing complete information is returned to the certifying agency last having jurisdiction of the seed. Such information shall include the amount of seed received, amount of seed finally certified, nature of

service rendered (recleaning, rebagging or retagging), and lot numbers of seed involved.

D. Combining Lots

Lots of the same variety and class of seed originating from one state may be combined. Seed from two or more states shall not be combined without the prior approval of each state concerned.

E. Approval and Responsibilities of Conditioners

Conditioners desiring interagency certification services shall apply to the certifying agency. Each certifying agency shall stipulate the requirements to be met by cooperating conditioners including the following:

1. Facilities shall be available to perform the function requested without introducing admixtures.

2. Identity of the seed must be maintained at all times. In cases of rebagging, scarifying, treating, recleaning for other conditioning, the conditioner assumes the risk of having seed that fails to meet certification requirements.

3. Records of all operations shall be complete and adequate to account for all incoming seed and final disposition of seed.

4. Conditioners shall permit inspection by the certifying agency of all records of the kind of seed certified, including both certified and non-certified seed.

a. Approved conditioners shall designate an individual or individuals who shall be responsible to the certifying agency for performing conditioning, sampling, labeling and other such duties as may be required.

b. Approval of conditioners shall be on an annual basis.

F. Inspection of Conditioning Operations

The certifying agency shall make as many inspections of both seed and records as may be required to satisfy itself that only the seed meeting requirements be labeled with certification tags.

G. Samples

Samples of all interagency certified lots shall be retained by the certifying agency.

H. Tags or Labels and Tagging

Tags or labels issued for interagency certified seed shall be serially numbered or carry a lot number and clearly show the certifying agencies involved, the variety, kind and class of seed.

## **XVIII. APPROVED SEED CONDITIONING PLANTS**

- A. Commercial or custom seed conditioners who wish to condition certified seed for another seed company in Indiana must annually apply to ICIA for inspection and approval.
1. An annual inspection fee will be charged. The inspection fee will not be refunded after inspection regardless of whether approval is given. A certificate will be issued to each applicant upon plant approval.
  2. The fiscal year for approval shall run from May 1 to April 30. Application must be made by May 1 to be included in the Summer Edition of the Indiana Seed Directory.
  3. Any well-founded complaint, concerning the quality of conditioning, reported to the ICIA, which is not corrected by the approved conditioning plant shall be cause for loss of approved conditioner status.
- B. Facilities, records and personnel
1. Requirements for facilities and equipment
    - a. The plant shall have at least one bin of adequate size that can be properly cleaned.
    - b. Intakes to all bins shall be completely blocked off during the time the bin contains Certified Seed. All bins must be so located that there will be no possibility of contamination.
    - c. All equipment, including dumps, bins, spouts, legs, etc., shall be constructed and arranged for proper cleaning prior to each conditioning operation.
    - d. All seed lots shall be handled in a manner to prevent varietal contamination.
    - e. Wheat shall not be handled by the same equipment which handles rye.
  2. Approved conditioners shall designate an individual or individuals who shall be responsible for performing conditioning, sampling, labeling and such duties as may be required by the Certifying Agency. The approved conditioners shall be familiar with the Indiana Seed Certification Standards.
  3. Approved conditioners are required to complete a "Record of Custom Cleaning of Certified Seed" report prior to a sample being submitted for final certification. Records of custom cleaning reports are required only if the approved conditioner is cleaning certified seed for another seedsman. Copies shall be distributed to the seed producer and the Indiana Crop Improvement Association for each lot conditioned. "Record of Custom Cleaning" reports are available from the ICIA office. Failure to comply with the requirement may result in loss of approved conditioner status.

- C. Seed companies conditioning their own certified seed are not required to have approved conditioner status and do not need to apply annually to ICIA for inspection and approval. These companies are pre-approved to condition their own certified seed and are subject to conditioning plant inspections by ICIA. Pre-approved conditioners must meet all the facilities, records and personnel requirements stated in B. 1 & 2 above.
  
- D. Seed conditioners located in another state may be approved for conditioning Indiana Certified Seed providing permission is granted by the out-of-state Certifying Agency and upon approval by ICIA.