

SEEDS (CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS, 2018

EPISODE 39

Conditions for sampling and testing of seeds

165. Sampling procedures

- 1) For the purpose of automatic sampling, an inspector shall sample a seed lot during cleaning at periodic intervals.
- 2) The inspector or seed analyst shall take a representative sample of each batch of seed for analysis.
- 3) The inspector shall carry out seed sampling in accordance with the International Seed Testing Association Rules.
- 4) Where an inspector has to sample vegetatively propagated crop, the inspector shall take a sample of the seeds and analyze the sample for diseases and pests.
- 5) The inspector shall place the samples in appropriate sample containers bearing the following information:
 - a. The certifying authority of the member state;
 - b. The name of the producer;
 - c. The species and variety;
 - d. The category;
 - e. The batch number;
 - f. The batch weight or number of units in the batch;
 - g. The treatment and active ingredients used;
 - h. The sampling date; and
 - i. The name of the agent of the certifying authority or the name of the laboratory assistant.

166. Storage facilities, conditions and lot identification

An inspector shall ensure that

- a) The seed inspected is positively identified by a lot number or field inspection number;
- b) Bins of bulk lots of uncleaned and cleaned seed are marked;
- c) Bags are identified by an identification tag securely sewn or fastened to the bag;
- d) Seed storage facilities have the appropriate aeration, temperature and humidity for seed conservation;
- e) Seed storage facilities are regularly disinfected;
- f) Seed bags are placed on pallets;
- g) Seed lots are arranged so that sampling is effectively accomplished; and
- h) Seeds are transported in conditions that maintain their intrinsic quality.

EPISODE 40

167. Lot sizes

- 1) The maximum lot size for a crop is as specified by the International Seed Testing Association Rules and as set out in the Ninth Schedule.
- 2) A seed producer or importer shall split and repackage seeds in the presence of an officer of the certifying authority failing which the seed batches concerned shall be rejected.

168. Lot number

- 1) The lot number shall be preceded by the initials of both the variety and kind of seed.
- 2) A batch of certified seeds may be constituted from the products of several farms of the same variety and of the same parent seed with the authorization of the certifying authority.
- 3) With respect to pre-basic and basic seeds, a seed batch shall be constituted by the product of one farm.
- 4) Raw seed batches of all categories, whether bagged or loose, shall be provisionally identified by
 - a) A label,
 - b) A harvest tag, or
 - c) Any other appropriate document in order to avoid an accidental mix up.

169. Conditioning

- 1) An inspector shall ensure that the seed inspected,
 - a) Which is to be tagged and sealed, is conditioned and treated in a seed conditioning facility accredited by the certification authority to meet the minimum seed standards and conditions for the crop and class; and
 - b) Is conditioned either by the grower or at an approved seed processing plant.
- 2) An inspector shall ensure that the seed facility inspected
 - a) Has conditioning facilities with cleaning equipment that has at least three sieves selected depending on the species; and
 - b) Is cleaned after every conditioning process to ensure maintenance of varietal purity.

170. Regulatory sampling and withdrawal of certification tags

- 1) The certifying authority may re-sample for retesting any lot of seed either before final certification or after the seed is tagged and sealed.
- 2) Where a tagged and sealed seed is re-sampled for retesting by the certifying authority, the certifying authority shall withdraw the tag if after retesting the certifying authority finds the seed not to be in compliance with these Regulations.