

SEEDS (CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS, 2018

EPISODE 33

Packaging of seeds and labelling

148. Packaging of seeds

- 1) Seed presented or sold by a person as breeder seed, foundation seed or certified seed shall
 - a) Be bagged by that person in new bags, and
 - b) Have affixed two official certification tags one properly affixed outside and the other inside the bag.
- 2) A certification tag is void if the person does not use the certification tag in accordance with these Regulations and the certifying authority shall, in that circumstance, withdraw the tag.
- 3) The responsibility for properly tagging a breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed rests on the certifying authority and on an accredited entity as described in regulation 147.
- 4) A certification tag is invalid where it is transferred in any manner other than being attached to the eligible seed bag.
- 5) The certifying authority shall limit the number of bags that make each certified seed lot.
- 6) The certifying authority shall authorize the type of packaging to be used for seeds,
- 7) The certifying authority shall ensure that the packaging is clean and appropriate for seed protection and viability.
- 8) A producer of seeds shall ensure that the packaging of the seeds is marked.
- 9) The package markings shall indicate in clear and easily legible print, the
 - a) Name the address of the producer or distributor;
 - b) Logo or trade name of the producer or distributor, where applicable;
 - c) Name of the species and of the variety as listed in the West African Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties;
 - d) Category, generation and production cycle;
 - e) Net weight;
 - f) Certification label; and
 - g) Name of the active ingredient used for treatment.
- 10) Where a seed batch is assembled and labeled, a subsequent splitting or re-packaging shall be undertaken in the presence of agents of the quality control and certification authority failing which the respective seed batch shall be rejected.

149. Tagging

- 1) A person shall not sell breeder seed, foundation seed or certified seed unless the seed is tagged and sealed with the seal of the certifying authority.
- 2) Only a person authorized by the certifying authority shall tag and seal seeds.
- 3) A person authorized by the certifying authority to tag and seal seeds shall ensure that the following information is shown on each tag:
 - a) Name of crop;
 - b) Variety of crop;
 - c) Year of production;
 - d) Name and address of the grower;
 - e) Purity analysis;
 - f) Percentage germination;

- g) Date of certification;
- h) Batch number;
- i) Name of active ingredient used for the treatment of the seed, conspicuously marked "POISON";
- j) Code of number of the inspector;
- k) Weight of seed;
- l) Field location; and
- m) Moisture content of seeds.

150. Carry-over seed and retesting

- 1) The seed producer shall submit carry-over seeds to the certifying authority for re-testing before they are sold
- 2) Carry-over seed which have already been certified by the certifying authority shall be resubmitted to the certifying authority for retesting.
- 3) An inspector shall test a carry-over seed for germination and moisture before the inspector issues a new certified seed tag for the seed.
- 4) Subject to sub regulation (1), an inspector shall test a carry-over seed
 - a) After every nine months for seeds in cold storage; and
 - b) Quarterly for seeds not in cold storage.

EPISODE 34

151. Labelling

- 1) A person who grows a seed of a class specified under these Regulations shall ensure that the seeds that person offers for sale have the official certification label.
- 2) The person shall ensure that the seed certification label tagged on bagged seeds states the
 - a) Species suitable as listed in the National Variety List;
 - b) Variety;
 - c) Lot number;
 - d) Maximum moisture content;
 - e) Minimum germination rate in percentage;
 - f) Date of analysis;
 - g) Purity percentage;
 - h) Weight of the seeds;
 - i) Month and year of production;
 - j) Name and address of the producer;
 - k) Code of the analyst;
 - l) Warning text or symbol of the place if the seed is treated;
 - m) Variety registration number; and
 - n) Minimum genetic purity.
- 3) Where a seed batch is splitted or re-packaged, the new label shall bear the same particulars as the original label with additional annotation indicating that the batch has been re-packaged.

152. Issuance of certification attestation

Where a person requests to use a seed batch, the certifying authority or an accredited private body shall issue a certification attestation which is an official document issued in respect of a seed batch.

153. Exceptional issuance of certification label

- 1) The certifying authority may exceptionally issue a certification label for a pre-basic seed or basic seed where germination capacity falls short of the required standards.
- 2) The certifying authority shall indicate the real germination capacity on the label referred to in sub regulation (1).
- 3) The certifying authority may exceptionally issue a certification label for a non-conforming seed batch in the case of emergency or dormant seeds after a preliminary and summary evaluation of viability.