

SEEDS (CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS, 2018

EPISODE 37

Conditions for testing, inspection and re-testing

159. Approval for the production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds

- 1) A grower of seeds shall not undertake the growing of breeder, foundation or certified seed unless that grower has applied in writing to the certifying authority for a permit.
- 2) The certifying authority shall, on payment of the prescribed fee, issue a permit to the seed grower to undertake the growing of breeder, foundation or certified seeds.
- 3) A seed grower is eligible for a permit if the seed grower has been assessed to have adequate and suitable farmland and farm equipment to undertake the planting, growth and harvesting.

160. Obligation of a conditioner or processor

A conditioner or processor shall not condition or process any seed unless there is a certificate issued by the certifying authority in respect of the seed.

161. Field and post-harvest control

- 1) An inspector shall inspect every field intended for the production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds at least four times in the course of a cropping cycle.
- 2) The first inspection shall take place before cropping to ascertain whether or not the land set aside by the producer meets the minimum characteristics and standards required for the species to be multiplied.
- 3) The second inspection shall take place during the vegetative phase which extends from the cropping phase to the start of flowering up to the emergence of inflorescence.
- 4) The third inspection shall take place when
 - a) Fifty percent of the plants are in flower;
 - b) The flowers are open;
 - c) The stigmas are receptive; and
 - d) The spores release pollen.
- 5) The fourth inspection shall take place a few days before harvest when the seed is sufficiently firm and has attained physiological maturity.
- 6) The minimum number of inspections shall be determined with respect to the following characteristics:
 - a) The seed farm environment;
 - b) The origin of parent seed;
 - c) The cropping history;
 - d) The isolation; and
 - e) The crop condition.
- 7) The inspector shall examine the field thoroughly to determine whether or not the particular field meets the crop requirement specified in relation to that crop and the specific field standards as set out in the Second Schedule.
- 8) The Seed Inspectorate Division shall establish the minimum and maximum areas per crop and per field on a periodic basis for seed production.
- 9) The inspector shall conduct the inspection in the presence of the seed producer and seed distributor or their representative if available.

- 10) The inspector shall examine all equipment and facilities relating to production and post-harvest activities including processing, storage, distribution outlets and transportation as required by the certifying authority.
- 11) An inspector shall submit to the certifying authority a report on every field inspected indicating approval, rejection or a pending result.
- 12) Where there is a rejection, the certifying authority shall notify the person concerned within two days from the date of the inspection.
- 13) A copy of the report shall be given to the producer.
- 14) The certifying authority shall develop the template of the report until the version of the Economic Community of West African States is developed.
- 15) A seed producer or a seed distributor shall keep a detailed account of stock entries and withdrawals in a ledger that is available for checking and inspection by the certifying authority or by any other accredited private body.
- 16) A seed producer shall establish a structured internal quality control system.
- 17) Quality control during seed marketing shall be carried out by
 - a) The certifying authority;
 - b) The agent of the certifying authority;
 - c) An official of the Ministry of Trade certified by the certifying authority; or
 - d) Any other accredited private entity certified by the certifying authority.
- 18) Where a variety is registered in this country and the parent seed is imported from a country which is not a member state of the Economic Community of West African States, the seed shall be subjected to variety control in accordance with this regulation.

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162. Isolation of field

Except where expressly provided, a producer of seeds shall, by use of a boundary prescribed, isolate any field used for the production of seed for certification under these Regulations from any other field.

163. Rogueing of field

- 1) Except where expressly provided, a producer of seeds shall, before any field is inspected for the purposes of certification, rogue the field.
- 2) In the case of cross-pollinated crops, off-types and weeds shall be removed before flowering of the plants and weeds.

164. Rejection of seed and field

- 1) An inspector may reject a seed which has a disease not found in specific crop standards where;
 - a) The quality of the seed may be affected, or
 - b) Results of tests made on the seed indicate a disease condition which will affect the crop produced from the seed.
- 2) The Committee shall, for purposes of certification of seeds, prescribe the tolerance levels of diseases based on the recommendations of the certifying authority.
- 3) An inspector or a seed producer may reject a field on the grounds of climatic or technical conditions.
- 4) For the purposes of sub regulation (3),
 - a) Technical conditions include
 - i) Physical purity;
 - ii) Adventives plants;

- iii) Health status;
 - iv) Varietal purity; and
- b) Climatic conditions include
 - i) Flood;
 - ii) Drought; and
 - iii) Wind damage