

Interagency Certification Standards and Procedures

Interagency certification is the participation of two or more certifying agencies in performing the services required to certify seed. Detailed arrangements may be made between two agencies for the specific case involved.

The following standards and procedures are provided:

A. Varieties Eligible

Only those varieties eligible for certification by member agencies of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies shall be eligible for interagency certification.

B. Agencies Eligible

Only member agencies of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies may participate.

C. Application of Standards for Varietal Purity and Identity

The seed certification standards as adopted by the certifying agency issuing the interagency certification labels shall be applied, provided those standards meet the minimum standards of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies for the kind and variety in question.

D. Evidence of Seed Eligibility

Seed to be recognized for interagency certification shall be received in containers carrying official certification labels or evidence of its eligibility from another certifying agency including the following:

1. Variety and kind
2. Amount of Seed (pounds or bushels)
3. Certified seed class
4. Inspection or lot number traceable to a certifying agency's records

E. Prior Approval of Cooperating Certifying Agencies

It is not necessary to obtain prior approval from a member agency to apply interagency certification labels unless such action is clearly prohibited on the label issued by the original certifying agency. The agency last having jurisdiction of the seed must keep on file the complete information indicating the amount of seed finally certified, nature of service rendered (recleaning, rebagging or relabeling), and certification and lot numbers of the seed involved.

F. Blending

Seed lots of the same variety and seed class may be blended and the seed class retained. If lots of different classes are blended the lowest class shall be applied to the resultant blend. Must have agency approval before blending.

G. Approval and Responsibilities of Conditioners

Conditioners desiring interagency certification services shall apply to the certifying agency in the state where services are to be performed. 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.
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 conditioned, including both certified and non-certified seed.
 - a. Approved Conditioners shall designate an individual who shall be responsible to the certifying agency for performing such duties as may be required.
 - b. Approval of conditioners shall be on an annual basis.

H. Inspections

The certifying agency shall make as many inspections of seed and records as may be required to satisfy GCIA that only the seed meeting requirements of varietal purity and identity shall be identified with certified labels.

I. Samples

Samples of all incoming lots to be certified, as well as the final certified lots, shall be retained by the certifying agency.

J. Labels

Labels shall be issued and used in compliance with Section XVI of the General Seed Certification Standards. Each label shall be serially numbered, or carry the certification identity number, and clearly identify the certifying agencies involved, the variety, kind and class of seed.