

Seed Certification



1. OBJECTIVE

To provide for the certification of true to type seed of low THC cultivars of industrial hemp, *Cannabis sativa*, for export in accordance with the requirements of the "OECD Scheme for the Varietal Certification of Herbage and Oil Seed moving in International Trade".

2. GROWER REGISTRATION

Individuals or enterprises intending to produce certified pure seed of industrial hemp parental lines or hybrids must make application to be registered for this purpose prior to planting their crop. Application Forms are available from the Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF AN AREA

Applicants for grower registration must identify all areas of land to be planted. An area will not be eligible to produce basic or certified pure industrial hemp seed if any part of the area nominated has grown an industrial hemp crop other than a basic or certified self pollinated crop of the same cultivar in the previous two (2) years.

4. ISOLATION

Industrial hemp seed crops are to be separated by at least 5km from any possible source of contaminating pollen.

5. INSPECTIONS

The Seed Certification Officer must carry out at least three inspections during the growing period. The first of these must be made before the flowering stage, the second inspection at the early flowering stage and the third inspection before the end of the flowering stage.

6. CROP REJECTION

Seed shall be rejected for the purposes of Certification if: -

- ★ in the pollen parent sown to produce certified hybrid seed, there are more than 0.5% off-type plants.
- ★ in the seed parent sown to produce certified hybrid seed, there are more than 1.0% off-type plants or more than 0.5% pollen-shedding plants.
- ★ in parental seed, there are more than 0.2% off-types in pollen parent blocks and 0.5% off-types in seed parent blocks.

For compliance with OECD standards, a maximum percentage tolerance of off-types, as listed below, must not be exceeded in the grow-on testing of each seed line.

At the second inspection, the Seed Certification Officer will sample the plants in order to determine their THC drug content is as stipulated at purchase. If THC content is correct, that is 0.35% THC or less, the seed may be harvested and certified provided all seed certification rules have been met. If THC content has varied from the content indicated for the planting seed, seed is unable to be certified. In all cases, industrial hemp seed certified using these production rules will contain 0.35% or less THC content.

12. GROW-ON TESTING

A part of each sample must be grown-on in the season immediately following receipt of the sample. Sufficient seed must be used to produce 1,000 plants. A comparison must be made from 1,000 plants of each respective parent taken from the standard sample lodged with the Seed Certification Service.

Inbreds (Basic Seed)

Sterile or Fertile Plants	5.0%
Off Types	0.3%
Total of Above	5.0%

DNA TESTING

In future, Police and/or other regulatory bodies may require DNA fingerprinting of the certified seed produced.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!

Production of seed of industrial hemp by unregistered individuals or enterprises is **ILLEGAL** under the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986*. Severe penalties apply.

