

Seed Certification



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GROWER & CLEANER Ref IL 2006

25 November 2004

Growers who wish to produce certified seed should have some knowledge and or experience in seed production, as well as access to appropriate harvesting, drying, and cleaning equipment. Seed production is a specialist activity and as a grower you must give adequate attention to producing high quality seed to enhance the marketability of the seed produced.

As the seed certifying authority in Queensland, QSEED is required to carry out inspections of registered seed production areas and associated machinery, to sample seed and keep records of individual areas enabling the pedigree of any line of seed to be traced.

As a grower you must:

- Acquaint yourself with the Rules, as it is your responsibility to comply with them.
- Cooperate fully with your local Seed Certification Officer in seeking his advice on seed certification matters whenever necessary.
- Give the necessary notice to the Seed Certification Officer, as laid down in the Rules, to enable the required inspections to be carried out. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the seed lot.
- Be thorough in roguing prohibited or troublesome weeds if required. Failure to do so may result in crop rejection and at least, expensive cleaning costs and delays in marketing.
- Maintain a cultivar as closely as possible to the material tested and released by the

- breeder, by roguing off-types before they
- can flower and contaminate the new generation.
- Maintain the isolation listed under the rules to prevent disease infection and
- minimise cross pollination of the crop with other cultivars that are closely related to the crop.
- Before planting, ensure that harvesting and cleaning machinery will be available.

APPLICATIONS

An application for registration form SC1 must be submitted to QSEED. For some species, this application may be submitted after planting. However, for pasture and silk sorghum species, it must be submitted at least four (4) weeks prior to the initial land preparation. This allows time for an inspection to ensure adequate isolation from plants that might be sources of pollen or freedom from volunteer plants.

PLANTING

Growers must clean planting machinery thoroughly, before planting.

Evidence of seed origin must be provided. **Labels are to be retained** and given to the seed certification officer on request for this purpose.

FIELD INSPECTIONS

At least one field inspection must be carried out prior to harvesting at a time specified in the relevant Rules. The seed certification officer should be advised just prior to flowering in most cases so that a field inspection can be arranged.



HARVESTING

As a grower you are to notify the seed certification officer at least seven (7) days before the anticipated date of harvest so that an appropriate time for inspection can be arranged and ensure that harvesting machinery is thoroughly cleaned prior to harvesting. Contaminants in the harvesting machine will greatly increase the costs of cleaning the seed and may cause the seed to be rejected.

Packages containing uncleaned seed must be marked with the area number and cultivar name. A copy of the Yield Declaration/Sample Submission Form SC8 (yellow form) must be completed and forwarded to the seed cleaner.

SEED CLEANING

Seed cleaning operators are to notify the seed certification officer at least seven (7) days before the anticipated start of cleaning.

When seed is to be cleaned in another district it may need to attach a temporary label and the seed must be accompanied by a **Yield Declaration/Sample Submission** form (coloured yellow) signed by the grower, stating the quantity of seed and its identification number.

SAMPLING OF SEED

The cleaner must notify the seed certification officer when cleaning is complete and the seed lot is ready to be sampled for testing. Any sampling for interim tests before this stage is the responsibility of the grower or seed cleaner.

PACKAGING AND LABELLING

The seed is to be cleaned and packed into new bags or clean bulk containers. Certification tags are to be attached during packaging. The tags may be blank or the identification information may be attached to the bag or container.

When the seed has been tested and found to comply with the minimum standards and all the requirements have been met, a stick-on-tag will be sent from the SCS and will need to be placed on the blank label. This label will list the species, cultivar, area number, label serial numbers used. Depending on the species, actual test information may be issued by QSEED and attached to the blank labels by the cleaner.

It is only when the stick-on-tag or the information is attached to the bag can the seed finally be called 'certified seed'.

CHECKLIST FOR CERTIFIED SEED GROWERS

The following is a checklist of actions that certified seed growers should take.

For yes

1. REGISTRATION

- has this been applied for and is the correct seed source available for planting?

2. PRE-LAND PREPARATION INSPECTION

- (if necessary) has this been arranged with the seed certification officer?

3. LABELS

- (from seed planted) - have these been retained as evidence of origin?

4. HARVEST DATE

- has the seed certification officer been advised of the flowering or anticipated harvest date so that a field inspection can be carried out.

5. CLEANED YOUR HARVESTER

- has this been done thoroughly or if a contractor has he cleaned it thoroughly?

6. YIELD DECLARATION/SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM

- have the two copies been completed and forwarded to the seed cleaner?

7. SEED CLEANING

- have you advised a seed certification officer of the anticipated date of cleaning if you are cleaning your own seed, so that a machine inspection can be carried out?

8. PACKAGING SEED

- are seed certification labels available for attachment to the seed line?

9. SAMPLING

- has this been arranged with a seed certification officer?