

Seed Certification



LABELLING & PACKAGING Ref IL 005

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This leaflet has been issued primarily for use by pasture seed production but is applicable for other crops.

Seed for certification must carry identification at all times after harvest. Each bag or container must be marked with the cultivar name and area number. Seed awaiting a final test will have either a temporary label or blank certification label attached.

HANDLING A SEED LINE AFTER HARVEST

All seed harvested must have a yellow "Yield Declaration/Sample Submission Form" completed by the grower and sent to the seed cleaner, either with the seed lot or separately.

In each case when certified seed is moved, the container must be clearly identified with the area number, cultivar and growers name. One of the following methods must be complied with before seed can be moved.

1. If a Quality Assurance system has been put in place.

2. When seed is despatched to a seed cleaning plant outside the district of production, the seed lot must be identified by marking the containers. This applies to bags, bulk bins and trucks. Previously this activity was completed by a seed certification officer, but can now be completed by the grower and should be completed in conjunction with the yellow "**Grower/Yield Declaration**". Supplies can be obtained from your local Seed Certification Officer or from QSEED.

3. If the seed is being sent for cleaning to a plant in the same district then either temporary labels can be attached or the seed certification officer must be advised before moving the seed. Each bag or container must be clearly identified with the area number and cultivar.

4. If the grower is to clean his own seed then a yellow "**Grower/Yield Declaration**" form must be completed. The seed cannot be moved off the farm, until permission has been given to do so.

Seed which does not have a temporary or final label cannot be moved unless approval has been given by a seed certification officer to do so. Failure to comply with this may render the seed ineligible for certification.

LABELLING AND FASTENING

Standard serial numbered labels are supplied to the seed cleaner who attaches these to the bags at the time of packaging. When completing the labelling, the label numbers must be accurate as the serial numbers are included on the final test information. This labelled seed can then be moved to other premises even though certification has not been completed.

On completion of a satisfactory purity and germination test, a stick-on-tag is issued to the cleaner who then attaches these to the blank labels.

The following information must be included on certified seed labels prior to sale as certified seed and this information may be issued in the form of a stick on label, or alternatively the information may be included on the container.

- name of cultivar and species;
- area and lot number,
- label serial numbers used on the line.



By law it is a requirement by the seller of seed to warrant the quality of the seed it intends to sell. It is not necessary to attach the information to the certification labels, however, as a service to growers, QSEED will print this information on the certification stick on label if required. The information required is:-

- minimum germination %; hard seed % if applicable;
- minimum pure seed %; maximum other seed %;
- actual germination; & date of test or year seed tested.

Seed cannot be sold for sowing if any prohibited seed is found. For details of this list see www.weeds.org.au for details of each states prohibited seed list.

Seals are not required for machine sewn seed labels where the sewing is through the label. Seals must be affixed for hand sewn seed bags. It is not recommended that labels be reused.

UNDERSTANDING AN AREA NUMBER

The certification number or reference number consists of a string of letters and numbers eg AUS/Q/05P769. The AUS/Q/ represents QSEED's OECD certification code, the 05 denotes the year of production 2005 (not the year of cleaning or testing), the letter following the year is a code for the type of seed, in this case pasture. The 769 is the actual certification number and is unique to the particular area.

