



To: Registered Merchants, Processors & Packers  
in Scotland, Licensed Seed Testing Stations in  
Scotland, E & W Applicants in Scotland,  
Scottish Freelance Crop Inspectors, NFU (Scotland)  
SSNTA, SSTGA, UKASTA (Scotland), DARD, NAWAD,  
MAFF, SERAD, Interested Organisations

SEED CERT: EC 102

29 September 2000

## **SEED CERTIFICATION INFORMATION**

I wish to draw your attention to the following seeds issues.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SEED MARKETING REGULATIONS FOR SCOTLAND**

Amendments to the seeds marketing regulations came into force on 1 August, 2000.

These apply to Scotland only. The amendments were the subject of a public consultation in May 2000, which included representatives of the seeds industry, consumer and environmental organisations.

The amending regulations implement Council Directives 98/95/EC and 98/96/EC on the marketing of beet seeds, cereal seeds, fodder plant seeds, oil and fibre plant seeds and vegetable seeds together with some other amendments. The main changes are summarised below but you should refer to the amending regulations for the definitive text of all the amendments.

#### ***Marketing***

The Directive introduces a new definition of '*marketing*'. The regulations have been amended to reflect this new text.

#### ***Official examination***

The term '*official examination*' has been re-structured and is now defined by the reference to the category of seed and by reference to those responsible for carrying out the examination or test.

#### ***Genetically modified organisms***

A definition of '*genetically modified*' has been introduced which has the same meaning as that provided in Council Directive 90/220/EEC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms. GM seed will need to be clearly indicated on seed labels and documents, in sales catalogues and other marketing information, as having been genetically modified.

### ***Seed 'as grown' marketed for processing***

Previously, the regulations did not apply to seeds marketed with a view to processing, treatment or cleaning. This is no longer the case but the amending regulations now prescribe that the marketing of seed as grown, marketed for processing, is exempt from the requirements of official certification provided that the identity of the as grown seed is ensured.

### ***Small quantities of seed for selection and scientific purposes***

Previously, the regulations did not apply to seeds used in the course of a process of selection. This is no longer the case but the amending regulations now prescribed that the marketing of small quantities of seed for scientific purposes or selection work is exempt from requirements of official certification. However, marketing of small quantities of seed that has been genetically modified is subject to a number of conditions. These include:

- The deliberate release of the genetically modified material must be authorised under a Part B consent, or the genetically modified material has been accepted for marketing in accordance with a Part C consent, issued for the purpose of Council Directive 90/220/EC
- the seeds are accompanied during marketing by a copy of the consent
- all appropriate measures have been taken by the producer of the seed to avoid adverse effects on human health and the environment; and
- in the case of genetically modified material accepted for marketing in accordance with a Part C consent, an authorisation has been granted by the Scottish Ministers.

### ***Increasing stock of seed for sowing and carrying out tests and trials***

Previously, the regulations did not apply to specified arrangements for increasing stocks of seed for sowing and for carrying out tests and trials. This is no longer the case but the amending regulations now prescribe that the marketing of seed under these arrangements is exempt from the requirements of official certification. However, where such seed has been genetically modified the same conditions apply as those described above for genetically modified small quantities.

### ***Small packages***

#### ***Beet seeds and fodder plant seeds***

The facility to market beet seeds and fodder plant seeds in small packages containing a net weight of not more than 15kgs of Pre-basic and Basic seed or a mixture of seeds for agricultural use has been withdrawn. This change does not affect the marketing of small EC 'A' or EC 'B' packages.

#### ***Cereals seeds and oil and fibre plant seeds***

The labelling requirement for these small packages has been amended to remove the reference to 'Passed for marketing in the United Kingdom only'.

### ***Definitions of fodder plant seeds***

The species of white lupin, narrow leafed lupin (blue lupin), yellow lupin, Hungarian vetch, common vetch, hairy vetch and lucerne are no longer included in the definition of Certified Seed. These species are now included in the definition of Certified Seed of the First Generation (C1).

### ***Fodder plant seed mixtures***

The Directive has amended the provisions that apply to fodder plant seed mixtures. The regulations have been amended to reflect this new text.

### **Imported seed**

Seeds that have been produced and packed in a Member State (other than the UK) or a third country, and which are accompanied by a valid document issued by a competent authority, shall be deemed to be seeds issued with a breeder's confirmation or official certificate.

Any person who imports seeds from a country, other than a Member State, in a package containing a net weight of more than 2kg must make available to the Scottish Ministers the information required by Schedule 6 Part IV of the regulations. Details of the way SERAD will collect this information is currently being prepared and will be the subject of a further 'Seed Cert' letter. In the meantime, you should maintain a record of all packages of seed imported from a third country containing a net weight of more than 2kg.

### **MARKETING OF SEED PRODUCED IN THIRD COUNTRIES**

General Licence 2000/1 renews the arrangement for the equivalence of field inspections and seed produced in third countries until 31 December 2002. Copies of the General Licence are available from:

Ms Carol Scott  
Room 127  
Pentland House  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1TY  
Tel: 0131 244 6341,  
e-mail: carol.scott@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

### **MINIMUM GERMINATION STANDARD FOR SEEDS OF TRITICALE**

These Amendment Regulations also implement Commission Directive 1999/8/EC which permanently reduces the minimum germination standard for triticale from 85% to 80%

## **STANDARDS FOR SEEDS OF HYBRID CEREALS**

The Cereals Seeds Regulations 1993 have additionally been amended to introduce seed and crop standards for hybrids of oats, barley, wheat, durum wheat, spelt wheat and self pollinating varieties of triticale. This amendment implements the provisions of Commission Directive 1999/54/EC.

### ***Seed Standards***

The final generation for hybrids is '*Certified Seed*' and sample purity standards have been introduced at the EC Minimum Standard. These are the same as those currently set for Certified Seed of the First and Second Generation in Schedule 4 Part II, paragraph 3 of the Cereal Seed Regulations 1993.

The minimum varietal purity standard for Certified Seed of hybrids of these species is 90% to be examined in official post control tests on an appropriate proportion of samples.

There is no varietal purity standard for Basic Seed of parental components of hybrids but crops to produce such seed must have sufficient varietal identity and varietal purity, which will be defined at a later date by the Certifying Authority for Scotland.

There are special conditions for seed crops of hybrids of oats, barley, wheat, durum wheat, spelt wheat and self pollinating triticale. The main points are:

- there shall be a minimum of 25 metres from any other variety of the same species except from a crop of the male component;
- the crop shall have sufficient varietal identity and varietal purity as regards the characteristics of the components:
- where seed is produced using a chemical hybridising agent, the crop shall conform to the following standards:

the minimum varietal purity of each component of the seed crop shall be:

- a) oats, barley, wheat, durum wheat and spelt wheat 99.7%
- b) self-pollinating triticale 99.0%

the minimum hybridity shall be 95.0%

### ***Crop Inspection Procedures***

Details of how these standards are to be assessed will be provided on request. Future revisions of the booklet '*Certification of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye and Triticale in Scotland*' and the crop inspection procedures booklet will contain appropriate standards. Anyone intending to produce seed of hybrid cereals (*other than Rye*) during 2000/2001 should inform SASA giving as much notice as possible. If you have any questions on the certification procedures for producing seeds of hybrid cereals, please contact me on the above telephone number

To ensure that you are fully acquainted with the details of all the amendments to the Regulations, I advise you to obtain copies of the relevant Statutory Instruments. These are listed at the end of this letter together with details of how you can obtain copies. Copies of the Seed Marketing (Scotland) Regulations can be viewed on <http://www.scotland-legislation.hmso.gov.uk>

Yours faithfully



**GERRY HALL**  
*Cereal Section*

Tel : 0131 244 8856  
Fax : 0131 244 8966  
Email : Gerry.Hall@sasa.gsi.gov.uk

◆ **LIST OF NEW REGULATIONS**

The Beet Seeds (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000  
Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 246

The Cereal Seeds (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000  
Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 248

The Fodder Plant Seeds (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000  
Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 247

The Oil and Fibre Plant Seeds (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000  
Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 249

The Vegetable Seeds (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000  
Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 250

Copies of these Statutory Instruments can be obtained from The Stationery Office as follows:

<b>By Post:</b>	The Stationery Office 71 Lothian Road EDINBURGH EH3
<b>By Telephone:</b>	0131 228 4181
<b>By Fax:</b>	0131 622 7017
<b>By e-mail:</b>	tsobookshop.edinburgh@theso.co.uk