

To: All Licensed Seed Processors & Packers

Our ref : CE 156

7/2/2019

MARKETING OF SEED POST 29 MARCH IN THE EVENT OF A NO DEAL BREXIT TRAINING AVAILABLE TO UPGRADE CURRENT LICENSED SAMPLERS TO ISTA SAMPLERS

As 29 March approaches and with no deal governing the exit of the UK from the EU in place, Scottish Government have prepared this information letter setting out how trade in seed between the UK and the EU will be affected if the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal. It also provides detail of training courses to be offered at SASA to help businesses prepare to trade under OECD rules.

The information provided here is based on the information available at this time, and undoubtedly will not cover all the questions you may have, as the exit process develops we will provide further updates as more information becomes available. However in the meantime should you have specific questions please submit them through seeds@sasa.gov.scot .

Further information on preparations for a no deal brexit is available through the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>

After March 2019 if there's no deal

Marketing seed in the EU

Varieties registered solely via UK National Listing will no longer be listed on the EU Common Catalogue and will not be marketable in the EU. UK certified seed will no longer be accepted in the EU. In order to market UK seed in the EU, businesses will need to meet two requirements:

- The variety will need to be listed on the Common Catalogue - breeders will need to add them to the EU Common Catalogue through registration in an EU country.
- Seed will need to be certified, and the certification will have to be from the EU or from a third country recognised by the EU as equivalent for seed certification.

3rd Country Equivalence

In the event of a no deal, the UK would apply to the EU to recognise its certification processes as equivalent, but this recognition will not be in place at the point the UK leaves the EU and this could take up to two years before it is approved.

As a third country we will be expected to market and label in compliance with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) seed and plant scheme. Scottish Government recognise the need to enable businesses to trade under OECD rules, including ISTA sampler training for seed company employees and therefore propose a series of training courses. Details are provided below.

Marketing seed and propagating material in the UK

National Listing

Advantage has been taken of the free transfer of EU Common catalogue varieties to the UK National List, with over 5000 varieties registered, which allows them to be marketed in the UK. The transfer window has now closed.

Transitional Period

In a 'no deal' scenario, for a transition period of two years from the day after exit day, the UK authorities will allow varieties on the EU Common Catalogue to be marketed in the UK. This transition period will also be used to allow the importing and continued marketing of certified seed and propagating material under EU rules and standards to guarantee continuity of supplies.

To avoid financial loss to Scottish businesses, this instrument also provides a temporary transition period to allow existing stocks of pre-printed official EU certification or supplier's labels to be used up. This is not required for labels for, potatoes, ornamentals and vegetable plants where there are different arrangements for labelling.

For certain species, plant health controls may apply to the import of seed depending on the origin of the seed.

TRAINING AVAILABLE TO UPGRADE CURRENT LICENSED SAMPLERS TO ISTA SAMPLERS

Under a no deal exit from the EU and at the point where the UK secures third country equivalence with the EU, companies who export seed to the EU would need to trade under OECD rules. This means that all certified seed, including pre-basic and basic, would need to be OECD certified and accompanied by an ISTA Orange International Certificate (OIC). An OIC can only be issued by an ISTA Accredited Laboratory, with the sample taken by a sampler under the control of the laboratory. SASA's Official Seed Testing Station is the ISTA Accredited Laboratory in Scotland.

For companies who intend to export seed outside of the UK, SASA are offering ISTA sampler training to current Licensed Seed Samplers at no cost. This will allow companies to take their own samples in house.

We are asking you to return an expression of interest, indicating which date is suitable and proposed number of attendees.

Wherever possible, we suggest that you try to market whatever seed to the EU you can prior to 29 March.

Course Content:

ISTA sampling principles – accreditation, training and auditing
ISTA sampling requirements – ISTA rules, equipment, sampling intensity

Completing sampling and testing forms.
ISTA seed lot requirements and submitted sample weights
OECD certification
Written and practical examination

Samplers must bring sampling spears and dividers to the course. These will be checked and calibrated by OSTs and a sticker applied validating it 'fit for use' for a 12 month period, until the next ISTA sampler audit.

If candidates do not bring equipment they will not be able to gain their sampling certificate.

The training and any OSTs approval does not include sampling to allow the issue of a phytosanitary export certificate. This can only be performed by Official samplers.

Please tear off and return the slip to Valerie Cockerell, SASA, Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ or scan and email to Seeds@sasa.gov.scot

Proposed Course Dates	Please indicate which date is suitable	Number of proposed attendees
Tues 12 March		
Friday 15 March		
Name of company		
Contact telephone & email address		

Yours sincerely



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