

WYOMING SEED CERTIFICATION SERVICE

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GENERAL STANDARDS

These general standards are applicable to all crops eligible for certification, and with the individual standards, constitute the Wyoming Certification Handbook.

I. TYPE OF CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION

Seed Certification in Wyoming is authorized by the Wyoming Seed Law, Chapter 12 (11-12-119). This law designated the College of Agriculture of the University of Wyoming as the official seed certifying agency for the state. Seed Certification is conducted under the direction of the Ag Experiment Station and the University of Wyoming Extension Service with the cooperation of the Wyoming Crop Improvement Association.

The Wyoming Crop Improvement Association (WCIA) serves as an advisory board to the Seed Certification Service. The WCIA is an organization of seed growers with a common interest in the Wyoming seed industry. The function of this organization is to advise the Seed Certification Service, distribute information concerning seed, promote certified seed and conduct any other business the members deem necessary for the betterment of the certified seed industry. The Association is governed by a board of directors elected by the membership and represents the various districts of the state.

Certification standards for Wyoming meet or exceed the minimum standards established by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). Crops approved for certification in Wyoming for which standards are not in effect may be certified under the latest standards as published by AOSCA.

II. PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION

The purpose of seed certification shall be to provide a service to the public for the maintenance and increase of quality seed and propagating material of varieties grown and distributed in such a manner as to insure genetic identity and purity.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED CROP VARIETIES

The AOSCA Eligibility Requirements for Varieties, as defined in the AOSCA General Requirements for Seed Certification Standards, shall be observed in determining the eligibility of a variety for certification.

The Wyoming Seed Certification Service reserves the right to establish its own eligibility requirements, inclusive of items A-I under AOSCA Eligibility Requirements for Varieties. Varieties may be deemed eligible for certification following favorable action by one or more of the following:

1. AOSCA Variety Review Board; or

2. Plant Variety Protection Office or Breeder Rights statements (with additional items A through I, under AOSCA eligibility Requirements for Varieties, as needed); or
 3. Any individual AOSCA vested member agency: or
 4. Acceptance for certification under the OECD seed schemes (with additional items A through I, under Eligibility Requirements for Varieties; or
 5. Acceptance by the WCIA Pure Seed Committee and accepted by the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station; or
 6. Varieties released by State Experiment Stations; or
 7. Varieties released by the USDA-NRCS.
- A. Crop varieties accepted for certification in Wyoming are not always recommended or implied to be recommended. Variety recommendations for the State of Wyoming are the responsibility of faculty members within the College of Agriculture, Plant Sciences Department. Recommendations are based on research data and knowledge of the variety under consideration.
- B. Varieties to be considered for certification may be submitted from the following sources:
1. The Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station upon approval of the Variety Release Committee.
 2. The Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with other public agencies.
 3. Other state agricultural experiment stations or government research centers.
 4. Private and commercial plant breeding programs.
- C. The Breeder or sponsoring institution or organization must describe and document in the application for certification submitted to the certifying agency those characteristics of the variety, which give it distinctness and merit by supplying the following information:
1. A statement concerning the variety's origin and the breeding procedure used in its development.
 2. A detailed description of the morphological, physiological, and other characteristics of the plants and seed that distinguish it from other

varieties as set forth in Article V of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

3. Evidence of performance of the variety, such as comparative yield data, insect and disease resistance, and other factors supporting the identity of the variety.
 4. A statement delineating the geographic area or areas of adaptation of the variety. This should include areas within states or countries where the variety has been tested and is expected to be recommended and merchandised.
 5. A statement on the plans and procedures for the maintenance of stock seed classes, including the number of generations through which the variety may be multiplied.
 6. Any additional restrictions on the variety, specified by the Breeder, with respect to geographic area of seed production, age of stand, or other factors affecting genetic purity.
 7. At the time a variety is accepted for certification, a sample of seed representative of the variety as marketed shall be presented to the certifying agency. This sample is to be retained as a control sample for use in verifying trueness of variety of future stock seed releases. The sample size shall be that required under Sections 1.4 in the current issue of the Rules of Testing Seeds of the Association of Official Seed Analysts.
 8. Additional certification requirements: Seed may require additional certification requirements that are clearly referenced in the variety description, provided that the following is completed:
 - i. Additional certification requirements have been communicated by the sponsoring breeder or originator to all parties involved with the regulation and production of the variety, and approved by AOSCA.
 - ii. The sponsoring breeder or originator shall authorize the Wyoming Seed Certification Service to verify specific characteristics that are referenced in the variety description. Verification of such characteristics will be completed before a certificate (tag) of final certification is issued by the seed certifying agency.
- D. The Breeder or owner of a variety, when applying for certification, must show proof if Plant Variety Protection has been applied for and if under Title V designation.

- E. The increase system as recommended by the sponsoring state and approved by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies must be followed in the certification of the variety in Wyoming.

IV. Experimental Lines

The Experimental Line Program provides guidelines for seed increase using published AOSCA or Wyoming Seed Certification Service field and seed standards during the final stages of testing an experimental line so that classes of certified seed may be available in the event of the line being released as a variety. The program is to be used for seed production of an experimental line that has not been reviewed or accepted into certification. Seed produced using this program cannot be sold or represented as a class of certified seed, nor should it be included in a certified seed mix or blend until such time as the experimental line has been accepted as a variety for certification.

A. Definitions:

1. **Experimental Line:** A germplasm that has not been released and/or recognized as eligible for certification and is being tested with the possibility of release as a variety at some point in the future.
2. **Classes of Experimental Lines**
 - a. **Exp-F:** Eligible for Foundation seed of an accepted variety.
 - b. **Exp-R:** Eligible for Registered seed of an accepted variety.
 - c. **Exp-C:** Eligible for Certified seed of an accepted variety.

B. The Experimental Line applicant shall provide documentation that includes the following information prior to field inspection.*

1. The experimental line owner.
2. The experimental line identification or the proposed name of the experimental line.
3. A brief description with sufficient morphological, physiological, and/or other characteristics of the plants and seed to identify the experimental line during field and/or seed inspection.
4. A statement of the generations through which the experimental line may be multiplied.
5. The generation of the stock seed used to plant the field must be documented. Acceptable generations are Breeder Seed, Experimental Line-F, or Experimental Line-R.

** If the applicant is an entity other than the experimental line owner, documentation stating the owner's approval of seed production by the applicant using this program is required.*

C. Standards

1. The requirements of sections B1, B2, B3 and B4 shall be met.
2. All land requirements, isolation standards, field standards, and seed standards for the crop and corresponding class of certified seed shall be met.
3. All inspections required for that crop shall be performed.
4. The limited generation system shall be maintained, with a maximum of three generations, those being the equivalent of Foundation (Exp-F), Registered (Exp-R), and Certified (Exp-C) classes.
5. Seed meeting documentation, field and seed standards is eligible for seed stock tags or documents that identify it as eligible under the Experimental Line Program.

D. Labels

1. Tags, labels, or official documents such as Transfer Certificates provided by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service for seed produced using the Experimental Line Program shall be clearly marked with the words "Experimental Line" and "Pending Certification".
2. "Foundation", "Registered", or "Certified" shall not appear on tags, labels, or official documents for seed produced using the Experimental Line program with the exception of wording required in section D1.
3. Plain white or buff-colored tags shall be used for seed produced under this program.
4. An example tag for Foundation-eligible XYZ wheat grown in Wyoming would state:

EXPERIMENTAL LINE - PENDING CERTIFICATION
Class: Exp-F
KIND: Wheat
EXPERIMENTAL LINE IDENTIFICATION: XYZ
LOT NUMBER: WY55-000-1234EF
ORIGIN/CERTIFICATION AGENCY: Wyoming

E. Completing Certification of seed produced using the Experimental Line Program.

In the event that the experimental line meets AOSCA and Wyoming Seed Certification Service variety eligibility requirements and is accepted for certification, Experimental Line seed stock tags or documents may be replaced by Wyoming Seed Certification Service tags or documents for the appropriate class of certified seed.

V. CLASSES AND SOURCES OF CERTIFIED SEED

A. Four classes of seeds or propagating materials are recognized in seed certification: Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service requirements for these classes must meet or exceed the minimum standards of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). The four classes of seed are defined as follows:

1. **BREEDER SEED**

Breeder seed shall be that seed or vegetative propagating material directly controlled by the originating or, in certain cases, the sponsoring Plant Breeder, institution, or firm and which provides the source for the initial and recurring increase of Foundation seed.

2. **FOUNDATION SEED**

Foundation seed (white tag) shall be seed stocks that are so handled as to maintain specific genetic identity and purity, and which may be designated or produced by an Agricultural Experiment Station or originator. Foundation seed shall be the source of Registered and/or Certified seed.

3. **REGISTERED SEED**

Registered seed (purple tag) shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed so handled as to maintain genetic identity and purity and meeting the standards set up by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service. Registered seed is the parent stock for the production of Certified seed.

4. **CERTIFIED SEED**

Certified seed (blue tag) shall be the progeny of Breeder, Foundation or Registered seed that is so handled as to maintain genetic identity and purity and meeting the standards set up by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service.

B. The number of years and/or generations through which a variety may be multiplied shall be limited to that specified by the originating Breeder or owner of the variety and shall not exceed two generations beyond the Foundation class with the following exceptions:

1. Recertification of the Certified class may be permitted for in-state planting for older varieties where Foundation Seed is not being maintained.

2. The production of an additional generation of the Certified class may only be permitted when an emergency is declared prior to the planting season by the certifying agency stating that the Foundation and Registered seed supplies are not adequate to plant the needed certified acreage of the variety.
3. An additional generation of certified seed must meet all other eligibility requirements.
4. Only the originally planted production for original producers should be replaced with the additional generation of certified seed. Emergency requests should not be based on an individual's or company's failure to adequately plan for production or based on fields failing to meet certification standards.
5. Permission to certify an additional generation of seed must be obtained from the originator of the variety or their designee.
6. Once a member agency receives a request to declare an emergency, it should notify the AOSCA central office of the request. The notification should include a brief summary of the situation and why the Agency believes the emergency declaration is necessary.
7. The AOSCA central office will provide notification to all active member agencies of the situation and provide a 7 day period for comment.
8. Each member agency may provide input to the agency making the additional generation request, either supporting or refuting the emergency declaration request within the comment period.
9. At the end of the comment period, the agency receiving the emergency request shall make a final ruling with regard to the emergency request. Once the final decision is made, the agency should notify the AOSCA central office, who in turn will notify all active member agencies of the disposition of the request.
10. The additional generation of certified seed to meet the emergency need is ineligible for certification.

C. PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION CERTIFICATION.

1. The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) of December 24, 1970, (84 Stat. 1542) provides that the Breeder, (or his successor in interest) his heirs or assignees, has the right, during the term of PVP, to exclude others from

growing the variety, or offering it for sale, or reproducing it, or importing it, or exporting it. (Chap. 8, Sec. 83).

2. Some PVPA varieties specify on the certificates that seed of the variety is to be sold by the variety name only as a class of certified seed (Sec. 180.143a). The owner who has a certificate specifying that a variety is to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed must label containers of the seed of the variety as follows: "Unauthorized propagation prohibited - TO BE SOLD BY VARIETY NAME ONLY AS A CLASS OF CERTIFIED SEED - U.S. PROTECTED VARIETY" (Sec. 180.143b) and (Chap. 8, Sec. 83).
3. Seed of a PVPA variety will only be eligible for certification upon submission of proper application forms, from the owner of the variety or from the owner's designee and approved by the University of Wyoming Variety Release Committee.
4. General certification standards and specific crop certification standards are basic to varieties having plant variety protection (PVPA) certificates.

VI. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION

A. APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application forms for certification may be obtained through the Wyoming Seed Certification Office. Each application must be filled out completely with a separate application submitted for each variety to be inspected. Applications that lack necessary information or documentary evidence of the source of seed planted will be returned to the applicant, whose responsibility it is to see that the application is returned within the specified time. In the event that an application is made for a crop that does not have published Wyoming seed certification standards, AOSCA standards will apply.

B. ESTABLISHING THE SOURCE OF SEED

A crop, to be eligible for certification, shall be grown from seed inspected and certified by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service or an official certification agency of another state or country. The source of seed claimed by each applicant must be supported by documentary evidence, such as a bulk sale certificate or an official seed certification tag from the seed which was planted. The documentary evidence must accompany the application for certification when submitted to the Seed Certification Service Office, or late fees could apply. (\$50 late fee per application until June 30th. \$200 late fee per application after June 30th.)

C. DATE FOR FILING APPLICATIONS

Applications are to be made on official forms and submitted to the Wyoming Seed Certification Office prior to the following dates:

CROP	DATE
Alfalfa, Red Clover, Crownvetch, Milkvetch, Sainfoin, Grass, Hemp, and Woody Species	May 15 (Late summer or fall plantings are due 60 days after planting)
Grain, Field Pea, Garbanzo Bean	June 1
Canola and Rapeseed	June 15
Bean	June 25
Absolute Deadline (All Crops)	June 30

D. LATE APPLICATION

Late applications, if accepted, are subject to a late fee in addition to the regular application fee and field inspection fees. The Seed Certification Office reserves the right to refuse late applications.

E. REJECTION OF APPLICATION

Wyoming Seed Certification Service reserves the right to reject applications for the following reasons:

1. Application received after June 30 deadline.
2. Location of field such that inspection would be unduly expensive.
3. Failure of grower to pay for services previously rendered.
4. Failure of grower to comply with certification regulations.
5. Growers of perennial crops such as alfalfa or grass may be declared ineligible for recertification if they fail to complete certification procedures for two successive seed crops.

VII. FIELD MANAGEMENT PRIOR TO INSPECTION

- A. Roguing of objectionable weeds, other crops, and off-type plants difficult to separate in cleaning should be done before inspection. An off-type is a plant or seed which deviates in one or more characteristics from that which has been described as usual for the variety. Every field for which certification is requested should show evidence of good management.
- B. The unit of certification is the entire field. When a portion of a field is to be certified, this portion must be properly identified by a fence, ditch, other crops, mowed strip, or adequate stakes.
- C. Isolation. All fields used for the production of Certified seed must have the minimum isolation distance as shown from fields of any other variety of the same species or closely related species or fields of the same variety that do not meet the varietal purity requirements for certification given in the individual standards.
- D. Modification of land history may be approved by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service when a cultural practice has proven to be successful. Cultural practices may include mechanical means such as deep plowing or chemical means such as fumigants or other material for seedbed preparation. Whichever method is used, it must be approved and adequate to maintain varietal purity. At no time may the time interval for land history be reduced below the requirement as stated in the United States Department of Agriculture, Part 201- Federal Seed Act, for Certified Regulations for specified crop and appropriate certified generation. To aid in distinguishing between volunteers and the crop seeded, the seed must be placed in distinct rows unless an exception is stated in the standards for the crop in question, but may vary in row spacing.

VIII. FIELD INSPECTION

- A. All Foundation, Registered and Certified seed grown in Wyoming to be eligible for certification, including seed grown on Wyoming Experiment Station land, shall be entered for certification purposes and inspected by a representative of the Seed Certification Service. Seed, to be eligible to tag, must have met certification requirements.
- B. The inspector shall traverse the field sufficiently to evaluate accurately the factors affecting certification. If a field is ready to harvest, but has not been inspected, it is the grower's responsibility to contact the Seed Certification Office.

- C. The certification inspector may refuse to approve a field for certification due to unsatisfactory appearance due to weeds, inadequate stand, disease, insect damage, lodging and any other condition that prevents accurate inspection or that may reflect unfavorably upon the certification program.
- D. Any field with cause to be rejected will be allowed one additional inspection. Seed borne diseases will not be eligible for re-inspection. Results of the re-inspection will be final.
- E. Reinspection of fields not properly identified or ready at inspection time shall be made at the discretion of the certification agency. Extra costs in such cases shall be borne by the grower.
- F. If a crop is harvested before inspection, that crop automatically becomes ineligible for certification.
- G. APPEAL PROCEDURES: If a grower disagrees with a field inspection decision rendered by a certification inspector, they may appeal this decision. The certification program will make appeal inspections providing that the factors affecting the original decision have not been altered. An appeal of a certification decision must be filed by certified letter within three (3) working days of receiving the decision notice. The letter should be signed, dated and mailed to the Manager of Seed Certification, Box 983, Powell, WY 82435. The Wyoming Crop Improvement Association Board of Directors will review all appeal cases; however, the Manager of Seed Certification will determine the final appeal decision. Within five (5) working days after receipt of the letter, the grower will be notified by certified letter of the final decision.

IX. SEED-BORNE DISEASES

Every field for which certification is requested shall show evidence that reasonable precaution has been taken to control seed-borne diseases. The field at the time of inspection shall not contain beyond established tolerances of injurious seed borne diseases which are enumerated in the individual crop standards.

X. HARVESTING AND SEED HANDLING

- A. The harvesting of the seed crop must be carried out with the utmost precaution to avoid mechanical mixtures. All machines, trucks and bins must be thoroughly cleaned before starting to harvest a crop to be certified. The first cut around the field with a combine should be discarded. Adjustments should be made that will prevent cracking or other damage to the seed. Cracking causes extra clean-out loss and poor germination, and shortens life of seed.

- B. All seed for certification shall be stored in clean, well-identified bins or containers. The lot number assigned by the Seed Certification Service should be used to identify each bin or container. The seed must be protected at all times from becoming mechanically mixed.
- C. All seed that is eligible for final certification shall only be cleaned or conditioned by an approved conditioner. It is the responsibility of the grower to see that each lot of seed is properly cleaned.
- D. **Movement of seed in the dirt is recognized only in the immediate area of production. Whenever uncleaned seed is moved to another state for conditioning, a Transfer of Seed Pending Certification Certificate must be obtained from the Wyoming Seed Certification Office.**

XI. APPROVAL AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONDITIONERS

Conditioners granted authorization to clean, grade, and handle Wyoming Certified Seed must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A. Facilities shall be available to perform the function requested without introducing admixtures.
- B. Identity of the seed must be maintained at all times.
- C. Records of all operations shall be completed and adequate to account for all incoming seed and final disposition of seed.
- D. Conditioners shall permit inspection by a representative of the certifying agency of all conditioning and storage facilities and records pertaining to all classes of Certified seed.
- E. Approved conditioners shall designate an individual who shall be responsible to the certifying agency for performing such duties as may be required. **Approval of conditioners shall be on an annual basis.**

XII. SEED SAMPLING

- A. A representative sample of each conditioned lot of seed must be sent to a laboratory that is under the direction of a Registered or Certified seed technologist (RST or CST). See Section XIII Seed Testing for the amount of seed to be submitted.
- B. The representative sample shall be drawn by an approved conditioner or an authorized agent of the certifying agency. If possible, the sample should be obtained by a sampling device or by hand throughout the cleaning operation.

1. Seed in bags: For lots of one to six bags, sample each bag and take the total of at least five cores or handfuls. For lots of more than six bags, sample five bags, plus at least ten percent of the number of bags in the lot. Regardless of the lot size, it is not necessary to sample more than 30 bags.
 2. Bulk seed: Recleaned seed in bins should be sampled at least seven different places with a deep-bin probe or by hand.
 3. Non-free flowing seed: Certain grasses and other seeds difficult to sample with a probe shall be sampled by thrusting the hand into the bag or bulk and withdrawing representative portions.
- C. If there appears to be a lack of uniformity; the samples shall not be combined, but shall be retained separately for laboratory analysis. If they appear uniform, they shall be blended and a final sample taken from the composite.
- D. A Seed Plant Conditioning Report Form shall be completed and submitted with each representative sample. These forms may be obtained from the Seed Certification Office.

XIII. SEED TESTING

- A. Germination and purity analysis must be made in accordance with the Rules for Testing Seeds established by the Association of Official Seed Analysts.
- B. Minimum sample size as required for analysis and testing as follows:
1. All cereals, beans or seeds of similar size.....2 lbs.
 2. Large-seeded grasses
(such as wheatgrass and bromegrass).....1 quart
 3. All small-seeded legumes and light grasses
(alfalfa, fescue).....1 pint
 4. All other small-seeded grasses
(orchardgrass, creeping foxtail)..... 1 quart
- C. Unless otherwise stated in the seed standards for the crop in question, seed standards for other varieties identifiable in a seed test required by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service shall be as published in the most recent AOSCA Genetics and Crop Standards publication.
- D. The person submitting a seed sample to the seed laboratory should mail the seed in a clean, cloth bag or sturdy container to prevent damage or spillage during transit. A Seed Plant Conditioning Report Form should accompany each sample.

Seed test may be performed by a Certified or Registered Seed Technologist. A partial list of seed labs in neighboring states is provided below:

Wyoming Seed Analysis Laboratory

749 Road 9
Powell, WY 82435
307-754-4750

Colorado Seed Lab

Colorado State University
Dept. of Soil & Crop Sci.
Ft. Collins, CO 80523
970-491-6406

Montana Seed Testing Laboratory

Mailing: MSU-Bozeman
P.O. Box 173145
Bozeman, MT 59717-3145
406-994-2141

UPS: MSU-Bozeman
Room 710 LJH
Bozeman, MT 59717

XIV. TAGS AND SEALS

- A. Certification tags and labels are for use exclusively on certified seed produced in accordance with the standard rules and regulations set forth by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service will issue certified seed tags upon request if the seed lot in question has met all the requirements stated in the Wyoming Seed Certification Handbook and all associated fees have been paid. If the seed lot in question was identified as produced under contract on the Application for Certification, the contractor will be notified by certified mail of the issuance of tags to the producer. The issuance of certified seed tags by the University of Wyoming Seed Certification Service is in no way a statement as to the legal right of the entity receiving certified seed tags to market the associated seed.
- B. The certification tag which is attached to the bag or container serves as evidence of genetic purity, class and quality of the seed contained therein. The following colored tags shall designate the class and quality of the seed:
1. White tag for Foundation seed.
 2. Purple tag for Registered seed.
 3. Blue tag for Certified seed.
- C. The certification tag or label shall be attached to the bag or container in such a manner which prevents easy removal and reattachment. All bags or containers must be labeled prior to shipment.
- D. Unused tags or labels must be destroyed or returned to the Seed Certification Office.
- E. Wyoming certified seed tags, with the exception of Pre-variety germplasm tags, must contain the following information:
1. Kind
 2. Variety
 3. Certified seed lot number provided by the WSCS.

Additional information may be printed on certified seed tags upon request by the labeler within the limitations of space. Additional information that can be printed includes seed analysis information, test date, seeds per pound, labeler's lot number, net weight, origin if other than Wyoming, and PVP status. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service reserves the right to refuse to print information deemed inappropriate for a certified seed tag.

XV. CARRY-OVER CERTIFIED SEED

- A. Labels on carry-over seed do not need to be replaced each year, so long as the containers have remained labeled.
- B. Under Chapter 12, (11-12-105) of the Wyoming Seed Law, the month and the year of the germination test shall not exceed a period of twelve (12) months prior to the sale of the seed.
- C. The supplemental label bearing a new germination and test date shall be affixed to the original label. A label on carry-over seed cannot be defaced when applying a new germination and test date.
- D. The tetrazolium test (TZ) is a preliminary quick test for germination. It may be used for labeling purposes to permit early shipment or movement of seed, provided a standard germination test is being made simultaneously.
- E. The owner of the seed lot is responsible for relabeling of seed which has an out-dated germination test.

XVI. BULK SALES

- A. When certified seed is sold in bulk, it must be accompanied by a Bulk Retail Sales Certificate. Registered and Certified classes of wheat, barley, beans and oats may be sold in bulk a maximum of two times, provided that the first sale is between the producer/conditioner and a licensed seed dealer. Certified seed sold in bulk by the producer/conditioner to entities other than licensed seed dealers shall be limited to one sale. Certification is void if bulk seed sold to an entity other than a licensed seed dealer is sold more than once.
- B. Bulk Retail Certificates can be obtained from the seed certification office.

XVII. BLENDING

Different lots of certified seed of the same crop variety and class of seed produced by one or more growers may be blended by an approved conditioner. The blending of seed lots of the same variety is often desirable to combine numerous small lots of seed to create one large uniform lot. Blending of seed lots which fail to meet certification standards is also permitted. Blending is not permitted to bring into certification a lot of seed which fails to meet standards due to Prohibited or

Restricted Weeds, disease, or of poor quality and appearance. If lots of different classes are blended, the lowest class shall be applied to the resultant blend. When seed lots are going to be blended, the seed certification office should be contacted to get a blend lot number so it can be on seed test reports and conditioner records. The lot numbers of the seed lots and amount of each lot should be provided at that time. An estimated amount is acceptable for lots blended prior to conditioning.

If seed lots are to be blended prior to conditioning, a seed test on the blended lot is required.

If all seed lots to be blended have seed tests that meet certification standards, the final seed lot may be labeled with the calculated average purity and viability.

If one or more of the lots to be blended have seed tests that fail to meet purity or viability standards, a seed test on the blended lot is required.

XVIII. SEED TREATMENT

It is highly recommended that all certified seed be properly treated to control seed-borne diseases and to help insure better seedling emergence. State and Federal laws require that treated seed be labeled with the name of the treatment used and carry a warning statement to prevent such seed from being used in food or feed products. Certified seed shall comply with State and Federal laws governing the labeling of treated seeds. It is very important that treated seed be labeled properly and handled in such a way to prevent injury to humans or animals.

XIX. SUBSTANDARD SEED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

It is recognized that in certain situations, seeds may not germinate properly or minimum pure seed requirements cannot be met. Seed failing to meet seed standards for inert matter and/or germination may be certified, with the permission of the certifying agency, providing there is no injury to the reputation of certified seed. Such seed will carry a regular tag plainly marked SUBSTANDARD for the specific reason.

XX. INTERAGENCY CERTIFICATION

Interagency certification is the participation of two or more certifying agencies in performing the services required to certify the same lot or lots of seed.

- A. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service may refuse interagency certification of any seed lot if such seed does not meet the standards for certified seed grown in Wyoming.
- B. The seed certification standards as adopted by the certifying agency issuing the certification tags shall be applied, provided those standards meet the minimum standards of AOSCA for the kind and variety in question. In the absence of standards, the tag issuing agency may apply the seed standards of the state in which the seed field was inspected.

- C. Seed to be recognized for interagency certification shall be received in containers carrying official certification tags or evidence of its eligibility from another certifying agency, including the following:
 - 1. Variety and Kind.
 - 2. Quantity of seed (pounds or bushels).
 - 3. Class of seed (Foundation, Registered or Certified).
 - 4. Inspection or lot number traceable to a certifying agency's records.
- D. Although detailed arrangements may be made between two certifying agencies for the interagency certification of a specific lot; it is not necessary to obtain prior approval from the other agency.
- E. The agency last having jurisdiction of the seed must keep on file, complete information indicating the quantity of seed finally certified, the nature of service rendered (reclaiming, rebagging or relabeling) and the certification and lot numbers of the seed involved.

XXI. FEDERAL AND STATE SEED LAWS

The Wyoming Seed Certification Service is not responsible for obligations arising from the sale, distribution or shipment of seed which has been certified, including obligations of compliance with the Federal Seed Act, the Plant Variety Protection Act, Wyoming Seed Law, AOSCA standards, or any other state or federal laws or regulations affecting the sale, distribution or shipment of seed.

XXII. ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION SCHEME (OECD)

- A. OECD is an international program, with membership limited to national governments of participating countries. The Agricultural Research Service, acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, has established guidelines for carrying out the requirements and procedures of the OECD scheme for the varietal certification of herbage seed moving in international trade. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service is the legally designated authority for OECD certification in Wyoming.
 - a. Before the Wyoming Seed Certification Service can accept for certification under the OECD scheme the variety's eligibility must be approved.
- C. OECD seed stock must be sampled by the Wyoming Seed Certification Service and receive official approval prior to multiplication.
- D. All certified seed produced must be directly related through one or more generations to Breeder seed. OECD white Basic seed tags denote the OECD equivalent to U.S. Foundation Seed or Registered Seed. OECD blue and red-tagged seed are first and second generation from Basic Seed, and are intended for no further seed production.

- E. All varieties under this program will follow the regular Wyoming Seed Certification Standards. After these requirements have been met, the seed will be tagged with the first generation certified blue OECD tag.
- F. All seed to be tagged must have a certificate of seed analysis prior to tagging. Each specific seed lot will be issued a reference number, which will appear on the tags and certificates.

XXIII. DEFINITIONS

- A. Conditioning - The term conditioning refers to the mechanical handling of the seed from harvest until marketing and includes cleaning, sizing, applying a seed treatment, bagging and any other operation in the handling of the seed before marketing.
- B. National Variety Review Boards - The National Variety Review Boards are an organizational part of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. These Boards are concerned with evaluation of varieties submitted for certification and determine if the variety merits certification.
- C. Off-types - "Off-type" means any seed or plant not a part of the variety in that it deviates in one or more characteristics from the variety as described and may include, seeds or plants of other varieties; seeds or plants not necessarily any variety; seed or plants resulting from cross-pollination by other kinds or varieties; seeds or plants resulting from uncontrolled self-pollination during production of hybrid seed, or segregates from any of the above plants.
- D. Other Variety - Other variety shall be considered to include plants or seed of the same kind that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected, but shall not include variations which are environmental or characteristic of the variety (variants) as defined by the Breeder.
- E. Variants
 - 1. That variants be defined as seeds or plants which are: (a) distinct within the variety, but occur naturally in the variety; (b) are stable and predictable with a degree of reliability comparable to other varieties of the same kind, within recognized tolerances, when the variety is reproduced or reconstituted; (c) and which were originally a part of the variety as released. Variants are not to be considered off-types.
 - 2. That the Breeder should identify variants as a part of the variety description, but the expected rate of occurrence of the variant need be stated only when the Breeder considers the variant to be an aid in identifying the variety.
 - 3. That the tolerances in Table 4, Section 201.62, Part 201 of the Federal Seed Act be applied to those variants which are described by the Breeder as useful in identification of the variety.

F. Variety (Cultivar)

The term variety denotes an assemblage of cultivated individuals which are distinguished by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical or others) significant for the purposes of agriculture, forestry, or horticulture and which, when reproduced (sexually or asexually) or reconstituted, retain their distinguishing features. In these guidelines, the terms variety and cultivar are considered exact equivalents in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, 1969.