

4. SEED PROCESSING

4.0 Seed processors

Only seed processors with a current accreditation agreement with PIRSA Seed Services are eligible to process certified seed.

Accredited seed processors agree to follow the procedures and standards as documented in the Procedure Manual for Processors of Certified Seed, and are audited annually to ensure compliance. Procedures for seed processing are described briefly in this section and are cross referenced to the more detailed procedures in the Procedure Manual (SPM).

4.1 Seed delivery

The first load of any seed lot must be accompanied by the relevant Seedgrower's Declaration. Each load of certified seed must be identified by an unprocessed seed tag.

Refer: SPM 4.1

4.2 Storing unprocessed seed

Unprocessed seed must be stored in clean, numbered storage containers. A permanent record of these storage containers and their contents (ie identity of the unprocessed seed lot) must be kept at all times for audit purposes.

Refer: SPM 4.2

4.3 Machine cleandown

Processors must document their procedure for cleaning machinery to prevent seed contamination. Records must show that this procedure was followed before processing certified seed.

Refer: SPM 4.3

4.4 Sampling and uniformity

Seed lines must be processed to achieve uniformity from the start to finish of each line. Each line must be sampled according to documented procedures by an authorised seed sampler.

Refer: SPM 4.4

4.5 Packaging and labelling

Certified seed must be packaged using new bags in the standard way, with the appropriate certification label. All bags in a seed line must be of the same capacity. Only OECD listed cultivars are eligible for OECD labelling; non-listed cultivars will be tagged with domestic labels. Field crop cultivars, irrespective of OECD listing, will be tagged with domestic labels unless prior arrangements are made with Seed Services.

Refer: SPM 4.5

4.6 Declaration by seed processor

For each line of processed seed, a Seed Processor's Declaration must be completed by the seed processor. The Seed Processor's Declaration and the Seedgrower's Declaration must be submitted with the official certification sample.

Refer: SPM 4.6

4.7 Storing seed under bond until official release

Seed must remain at the seed processor's premises until the seed is officially released, that is, when the official seed certification analytical certificate is issued.

Where access to Seeds Online is available, seed is officially released when the completed result for that line shows as Accepted.

Refer: SPM 4.7

4.8 Reprocessing seed

Seed may be reprocessed and a new official sample submitted for certification except in the case of seed rejected due to the presence of prohibited weed seeds, where approval to reprocess must be given by Seed Services.

Refer: SPM 5.1
SPM 5.7

4.9 Preliminary certification of bulk seed

Processed seed from more than one Seedgrower's Declaration may be stored in bulk prior to bagging off and final certification. A preliminary certificate of analysis will be issued for each bulk seed lot which will state 'Preliminary Result - Certification Not Final'. This analysis result should be regarded as indicative of the quality of the bulk lot only, and may differ from the official certification analysis result issued on the final bagged seed line.

Refer: SPM 5.2

4.10 Submitting blend lines for certification

Processed seed of the same cultivar and class may be blended and submitted for certification.

Refer: SPM 5.3

4.11 Releasing seed as bulk

Only field crop seed is eligible to be sold in bulk lots. Certain records are required to be kept for each sale of bulk seed.

Refer: SPM 5.4

4.12 Rebagging seed

Where less than 20 bags in a seed line are being rebagged, the original labels may be reused with the application of an official reseal sticker. Where more than 20 bags per seed line are being rebagged, new labels must be used.

Refer: SPM 5.5

4.13 Provisionally rejected seed

Seed lines that are provisionally rejected from certification pending an improvement in germination capacity may be re-sampled and submitted for retest. It is recommended that new samples not be submitted until at least six (6) weeks after the provisional rejection notice is issued.

Refer: SPM 5.6

4.14 Outright Rejected Seed

Seed that is rejected from certification may be sold as uncertified seed with the top section of the certification label removed and stickers placed over the pre-printed certification labels, **except** where the seed line contains prohibited seed.

Seed containing prohibited seed cannot be sold, and is subject to the provisions of the Animal and Plant Control Act, 1986.

Seed rejected from certification may be reprocessed and a new sample submitted for certification except in the case of seed rejected due to the presence of prohibited seeds, where approval to reprocess must be given by Seed Services.

Refer: SPM 5.7

4.15 Pre-Basic and Basic seed

Seed Services must be contacted prior to processing. A documented machine cleardown procedure is required to be followed and signed off.

Ref. SPM 5.8

4.16 Use of Mobile Seed Grading Equipment

Processors using mobile seed grading equipment follow the same procedures as accredited processors using a fixed plant.

Ref. SPM 5.9