

**MISSISSIPPI CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

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GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

(APPLICABLE TO ALL CROPS)

I. PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION:

The purpose of Certification shall be to maintain and make available to the public, through Certification, high quality seeds, propagating materials and other agricultural products of superior crop plant varieties and strains so grown and distributed as to maintain high quality genetic identity and purity.

II. MEMBERSHIP:

A. VOTING MEMBER:

Any firm or person producing Certified agricultural products in his own name may be a voting member of the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association and all other regulations of the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association are in compliance.

B. ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Any firm or person who is a resident of Mississippi and who is interested in promoting the general welfare of the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association may be an associate member.

Members of a cooperative agricultural product-producing group or firm who are producing Certified agricultural products which is Certified in the name of that cooperative group or firm shall be associate members, provided the annual membership dues are paid. Associate members shall not be voting members.

C. MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Annual membership fee is \$100.00 and associate membership fee is \$50.00. Membership fees are payable at the time the application is filed for Certification.

III. CLASSES OF CERTIFIED SEED:

A. BREEDER:

Breeder seed is seed directly controlled by the originating or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to Certified seed, Breeder seed is the source for the production of seed of the other classes of Certified seed. If Breeder seed is to be tagged, it must be tagged with a white tag labeled "Breeder Seed."

B. FOUNDATION (WHITE TAG):

Foundation seed is seed which is the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed produced under control of the originator or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to Certified seed, Foundation seed is a class of Certified seed which is produced under procedures established by the Certifying agency for the purpose of maintaining genetic purity and identity. Foundation seed shall be tagged with white tags issued by the official seed Certifying agency.

C. REGISTERED (PURPLE TAG):

Registered seed shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed handled under procedures acceptable to the Certifying agency to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity. Registered seed shall be tagged with purple tags issued by the official seed Certifying agency.

D. CERTIFIED (BLUE TAG):

Certified Blue Tag seed shall be the progeny of Breeder, Foundation, or Registered seed so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity, and which has been acceptable to the Certifying agency (see exception IV. Limitations of Generations).

IV. LIMITATIONS OF GENERATIONS:

The number of 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 seed class with the following exceptions:

- A. Re-certification of the Certified Blue Tag class may be permitted for older varieties where Foundation seed is not being maintained.
- B. The production of an additional generation of the Certified Blue Tag class only may be permitted on a one-year basis when an emergency is declared by the Certifying agency stating that the Foundation and Registered seed supplies are not adequate to plant the needed Certified Blue Tag acreage of the variety. The permission of the originating or sponsoring plant breeder, institution, firm or owner of the variety, if existent, must be obtained. The additional generation of Certified Blue Tag seed to meet the emergency need is ineligible for re-certification.

V. BREEDER'S VARIETAL DESCRIPTION:

Inspections and standards for specific crops shall be on the basis of the description of the variety as set forth by the breeder.

VI. PRODUCTION OF REGISTERED SEED:

A. SEED STOCKS USED:

All seed stocks used for the production of Registered class shall be Breeder or Foundation class which were produced under field and laboratory standards equivalent to, or more rigid than, those set forth by the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association.

B. SPECIAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRODUCTION OF REGISTERED SEED:

1. PRODUCTION OF REGISTERED AND CERTIFIED BLUE TAG SEED ON SAME FARM:

A grower may plant his acreage to be Certified with Foundation seed and then plant the remainder of his desired acreage with Registered seed. Registered fields and Certified Blue Tag fields of the same variety must be adequately isolated from one another to prevent mixing of the classes.

2. INSPECTION OF STORAGE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR HARVESTING, HAULING, HANDLING, AND CONDITIONING:

The storage facilities and equipment for harvesting, hauling, handling, and conditioning must be inspected and approved by a representative of the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association before handling Registered seed. There will be a \$25.00 charge for each trip required to inspect these facilities and equipment. The grower must notify the Association at least three (3) days before this inspection is needed.

3. REGISTERED SEED PRODUCED BY OR UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE ORIGINATING RECOGNIZED PLANT BREEDER:

Seed produced under the direct supervision of the originating recognized plant breeder will not be required to have a conditioning, storage, and harvesting equipment inspection by MCIA. Fields, gins, conditioning plants, seed houses, and storage facilities used by contract producers of seed shall be inspected and approved by MCIA, or a representative of the breeding firm at the option of the MCIA.

VII. CUSTOM HARVESTING EQUIPMENT:

All custom equipment or equipment used for custom work must be inspected and approved by MCIA before harvesting a Certified Blue Tag class of seed unless the previous crop was of the same variety and of a Certified class.

VIII. CLEANING OF EQUIPMENT:

Applicant is responsible for cleaning seeders, drills, wagons, trucks, harvesters, cleaners, bins, etc. of other seeds. Under certain circumstances as outlined in this Handbook, such equipment must be inspected by MCIA Inspectors.

IX. OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS:

All official inspections shall be made by trained inspectors employed by MCIA. Inspections shall be made at such time as to insure the purity of the seed.

A field that cannot be satisfactorily inspected will not be recommended for Certification. This has reference to fields contaminated with weeds, grasses, and/or lodging.

Crops harvested before field inspection will not be eligible for Certification.

X. UNIT OF CERTIFICATION:

A field or a portion of a field may be Certified provided an adequate boundary is established by mowing or disking a border between the Certified portion of the field and the portion not meeting Certification requirements.

XI. APPLICATION FOR FIELD INSPECTION:

Forms for filing applications for field inspection will be furnished by MCIA on request.

A. DATES FOR FILING APPLICATIONS:

1. Alfalfa, clover, fescue, and ryegrass - April 1
2. Oats, wheat, barley, and rye - April 15
3. Southernpea* - June 15
4. Cotton and rice - July 1
5. Bahiagrass, reseeding soybean, sorghum, soybean and sweetpotato- July 15
6. Turfgrass:
 - a. New fields - anytime from April 1 to September 1, and at least 10 days prior to preparation for planting.
 - b. Established fields (fields Certified previous year) - renewal applications must be submitted by June 1.

7. Bermudagrass:
 - a. New fields - anytime from March 1 to September 1.
 - b. Established fields (fields Certified previous year) - renewal applications must be submitted by June 1.

*Late plantings may be filed on southernpea.

B. LATE APPLICATIONS:

Applications filed after the final date for filing will be accepted; however, there will be a \$5.00 penalty per application in addition to the fees listed on the application provided applications are filed within 15 days after the deadline date. Applications filed more than 15 days after the deadline date will be accepted; however, the following will apply: (1) there will be a penalty of \$100.00 per application in addition to the fees listed on the application; (2) inspections will be made if time permits; (3) no inspections will be made until applications are received in MCI office and are approved; (4) applications filed on time will receive priority for field inspections; and (5) late applications will not be listed in the Certified Crop Producer Booklet.

C. ENCLOSURES TO BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATIONS:

1. Copy of purchase invoice or other acceptable evidence showing source, class, and quantity of planting seed.
2. Sample tag from each lot of seed planted.
3. Annual Membership fee of \$50.00, if not previously paid.
4. Associate membership fee, if filling with contract grower.
5. Inspection fees as printed on application form.

XII. REFUNDS ON FIELD INSPECTION FEES:

Members who cancel their applications for field inspection before the inspector arrives to inspect the field will be refunded the full amount of the field inspection fees.

XIII. RE-INSPECTION:

If it becomes necessary to reinspect a field, the grower will be charged \$25.00 each time the field is reinspected.

XIV. STORAGE AND STORAGE INSPECTION:

A. STORAGE:

Seed must be stored in dry, well-ventilated or controlled, weather-proof buildings. If seed are stored in bulk, they must be separated from any other seed of another quality or variety in such a manner that there will be no chance of mixture. Identity of individual lots of seed as to crop, variety and lot number must be maintained at all times.

B. STORAGE INSPECTION AND CHARGES:

Storage inspections shall be made by a representative of MCIA at such times as, in the judgement of the Certifying agency, it becomes necessary. If a reinspection of storage facilities becomes necessary, the person or firm involved shall pay a \$25.00 charge for this inspection.

XV. SAMPLING SEED:

A. OFFICIAL SAMPLES:

An official sample of each lot of seed to be Certified shall be drawn by a representative of MCIA following AOSA rules for sampling seed. Such samples shall be drawn on REQUEST from the Certified grower.

Recognized plant breeders may draw their own official samples of Foundation and Registered seed of varieties developed by them, provided the method of sampling is approved by the Association.

While the seed are still in the hands of the Certified producer, the Association reserves the right to resample or spot-check any or all of the lots of seed offered for Certification in order to insure the quality of the seed either before or after tags have been issued.

If on rechecking a lot of seed, it is found the lot does not meet Certification standards, Certification may be revoked and the Certified grower be required to return the tags.

Except as otherwise specified in the individual crop standards (or as listed in section XXXI. B), bulk samples are for information only. These will be service samples and sampled at the request of the grower for a fee of \$50.00 per bin. No tags will be issued based on the results of these samples.

B. PREPARING SEED FOR OFFICIAL SAMPLING:

Seed must be conditioned and bagged before requesting that official samples be drawn, except when certain provisions are made under specific crop standards.

MCIA reserves the right to limit the number of bags and/or quantity in a given lot of seed.

1. STACKING BAGS:

Bagged seed must be stacked in such a manner that a representative sample can be drawn. Bags must be stacked in such a manner that an accurate bag count can be made.

2. STENCILING OR TAGGING EACH BAG IN EACH LOT BEFORE OFFICIAL SAMPLES ARE DRAWN:

Identity of seed by crop, variety, lot number, and grower is to be maintained at all times. All bags and all seed of any given lot shall always be stored or stacked together and not mixed with any other bags of seed. AFTER A GIVEN PORTION OF SEED HAS BEEN CONDITIONED AND SO DESIGNATED AS A LOT OF SEED, THAT PARTICULAR PORTION OF SEED SHALL ALWAYS BE MARKED OR DESIGNATED AS THAT PARTICULAR LOT.

The bonded plant manager or grower shall be responsible for stenciling the lot number on each bag of a given lot of seed or attaching a tag bearing the lot number to each bag of seed before final official samples are drawn.

C. RE-SAMPLING AND RE-SAMPLING CHARGES:

Except in special cases as stated below, only one official sample shall be drawn from any lot of seed. If re-samples are drawn on a lot of seed, there will be a \$25.00 charge for each resample of bagged seed.

1. In cases where a lot of seed fails to meet Certification standards on the first analysis report due to the presence of weed seed or other crop seed, this lot of seed may be re-sampled, provided it is possible to remove the weed seed or other crop seed by a conditioning procedure and provided the lot in question is properly reconditioned and re-sampled. A complete analysis, including germination, must be run on this reconditioned seed.

2. In cases where a lot of seed fails to meet the germination requirement on the first laboratory analysis, that lot of seed may be re-sampled and retested for germination only. IN NO CASE WILL A LOT OF SEED BE RETESTED MORE THAN ONCE UNLESS THERE IS A SPECIAL PROBLEM INVOLVED.
3. If at any time an original lot of seed is broken down into sub-lots, a complete analysis may be required on the sub-lots submitted for Certification. In no case shall a sub-lot be further subdivided.
4. In all cases, the last analysis run on a lot of seed shall be the official analysis for determining whether or not the seed meets Certification and will be the one used for printing tags.
5. Once a sample is submitted to the laboratory, it cannot be withdrawn and tags ordered on the previous laboratory analysis report.

D. RE-SAMPLING, RE-TESTING, AND RE-TAGGING SEED HELD FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD:

FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON RETESTING SEED: No more than (five) 5 calendar months shall have elapsed between the last day of the month in which the germination test was completed and the date of transportation or delivery for transportation in interstate commerce.

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS ON RETESTING SEED: No seed shall be sold, exposed for sale, or offered for sale within this state when a period of more than nine (9) calendar months has elapsed, exclusive of the calendar month in which the test was completed, between the germination test date and the time the seed are offered or exposed for sale.

The owner of Mississippi Certified seed is responsible for re-sampling, re-testing, and re-labeling Certified seed after the germination date expires. The owner of the seed must place his new germination date and new germination percentage on a plain tag and attach this tag alongside the Certification tag after the expired germination and test date have been voided on the original tag. The seller or shipper must print his name and address on the analysis tag when the seed is to move in interstate commerce.

XVI. SEED ANALYSES:

Official seed analysis shall be conducted by the State Seed Testing Laboratory at Mississippi State, or in case of an overload of work, by an analyst approved by the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association and the State Seed Analyst. All seed must meet the minimum state requirements in addition to the Certification requirements.

XVII. BAGS:

All Certified seed shall be bagged in NEW bags unless special permission is granted prior to bagging the seed.

XVIII. EMBLEMS

The use and color of the MCIA emblem is optional; however, growers and conditioners are encouraged to use the emblem on all Mississippi Certified seed.

XIX. TAGS, AND ADVANCE TAG ORDERS

A. TAGS:

Certification tags must be ordered from the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association by the producer. The information used for labeling a seed lot for marketing must be in compliance with the intent of State and Federal Seed Laws and be based on test results from a sample drawn after complete conditioning of the seed lot.

B. ADVANCE ORDERS FOR TAGS:

Growers may order their tags in advance provided detailed arrangements for printing, analysis data, shipping, and handling these advance orders are worked out with MCIA in advance. Seed must not be exposed for sale until official analysis reports have been received by the grower.

Advance tags issued for seed lots that are later found by official test to be not in conformity with analysis information printed on the tags must be returned to the MCIA office by July 1 for warm season crops and November 1 for cool season crops.

C. INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH TAG ORDER:

When ordering tags, the producer must state the number of tags wanted, the laboratory report number, the lot number of the particular lot of seed on which the

tags are to be used, the crop and variety, the number of bags in each lot, the net weight of each bag, and the name and address of the producer.

The producer must state whether the actual germination or a specified germination below actual is to be printed on the tags.

D. PRINTING ANALYSIS DATA ON CERTIFICATION TAGS:

The analysis data will be printed on each tag by MCIA before the tags are shipped to the Certified producer. The producer is responsible for checking the printed matter on his tags to see that it conforms to the analysis data on his laboratory analysis report.

E. PRINTING TAGS IN NAME OTHER THAN CERTIFIED GROWER:

A Certified grower who sells his seed before labels are issued may grant permission for MCIA to print Certified labels in a name other than the Certified grower; however, the Certified grower must also be identified on the labels by a grower number.

F. ATTACHING CERTIFICATION TAGS TO BAGS:

The Certification tag must be attached to the bag by methods approved by the MCIA. The grower is responsible for seeing that the tags are properly attached to the bags either by his representative or by a bonded conditioning plant.

XX. CHARGES FOR TAGS:

These charges are determined by the Board of Directors, and this information is available at the MCIA office.

XXI. LIABILITY:

Responsibility for any obligation arising from the sale or shipment of Mississippi Certified seed rests with the grower or subsequent handler making the sale or shipment.

It is the responsibility of Certified seed growers to fully comply with the provisions of both the Federal and State Seed Laws and the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association.

XXII. SUBSTANDARD SEED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

It is recognized that in emergency situations, such as unfavorable weather conditions, much seed necessary for the advancement of crop improvement would be lost if regular Certification Standards are adhered to. Therefore, under such circumstances, seed failing to meet Certification Standards in factors other than those affecting genetic purity may be Certified. The Certification tags of such substandard seed shall show the respects in which the seed does not meet the regular Certification Standards, and these data must be shown on the tag in the manner prescribed by MCIA.

Any seed that meets all MCIA Standards except that it germinates below MCIA Standards, but not below the State Seed Law Standards, may be Certified provided Certification tags are marked "Below Standard for Germination."

XXIII. SEED SHIPMENTS WITHOUT OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION TAGS:

Seed will not be eligible for Certification if shipped in bulk or in untagged bags within or outside the State unless special permission is granted by MCIA. This does not apply to normal movement of seed to and from approved conditioning plants or storage facilities within the State.

XXIV. BULK SEED CARRIED OVER FROM ONE PLANTING SEASON TO THE NEXT:

Bulk seed carried over from one planting season to the next will not be eligible for Certification unless application is made to the Association on or before the deadline for filing Certification applications for the crop in question in the year following production of the seed carried over. Plant Breeding firms may carry over bulk seed from one season to the next without making a new application.

XXV. BLENDING:

Certified seed lots of the same variety and class may be blended by an approved conditioner. If lots eligible for more than one seed class are blended, the lowest class shall be applied. The representative of an approved conditioner must notify the Association office previous to making a blend. The notification must be far enough in advance to allow an Association representative adequate time to get to the plant and observe the blending operation.

XXVI.COOPERATIVE OR PARTNERSHIP CERTIFIED SEED PRODUCING AGENCIES:

A. APPLICATION FILED BY ONE INDIVIDUAL:

When applications are filed and signed by an individual grower or firm where no reference is made to any other producer or owner, or possible producer or owner of such seed or portion of such seed, said seed shall be Certified only in the name of the person or firm who signs the official application for Certification submitted to MCIA.

B. APPLICATION FILED BY A PARTNERSHIP:

In case an application is filed in the name of a partnership or two or more persons, such as "The Jones Brothers," "Thomas and Smith," or "The Hill Company," each member of the partnership shall sign the application.

Any one or all of the persons signing an official application for seed Certification may Certify his share of the seed in his own name provided the seed meets all other requirements for Certification. The seed may be Certified in the name of the firm or partnership.

C. APPLICATIONS FILED BY A PERSON OR FIRM HAVING SEED PRODUCED BY CONTRACT GROWERS:

Note:

"Applicant" means the person or firm who is having seed produced in that person's or firm's name by one or more contract growers, who may produce such seed as a farmer-grower or who may subcontract such production to other farmer-growers.

"Contract grower" means the person or firm who is responsible to the applicant for the production of seed for the applicant and who may or may not be a farmer-grower.

"Farmer-grower" means the person or firm who actually produces the seed.

A person or firm who is Certifying in his name, seed which is produced by a contract grower shall follow the procedure as listed below:

The applicant and the contract grower shall jointly file and sign an application covering the entire acreage being produced by contract growers for the applicant.

In addition, in those instances where acreage is being produced by one or more farmer-growers under contract with the contract grower, each such farmer-grower shall also sign the application for Certification.

The seed produced under this arrangement may be Certified in the name of the applicant, the contract grower, or the farmer-grower provided the seed meets all of the regulations prescribed by MCIA for the production of Certified seed, and provided further that Certification of such seed does not violate the terms of written contracts for delivery of seed existing between parties in question.

If a contract grower or farmer-grower is producing Foundation seed for the applicant, the contract grower or farmer-grower cannot Certify such seed as Foundation class, but may Certify this seed as Registered or Certified Blue Tag seed in his own name, provided all other requirements are met for Certification.

XXVII. OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS PRODUCING CERTIFIED SEED IN MISSISSIPPI:

Out-of-state persons or firms who own, rent, or lease land in Mississippi and who Certify seed produced on such land in Mississippi shall write a letter to MCIA giving the name and address of the manager of such property and state the location and amount of land owned, rented, and/or leased in Mississippi.

Out-of-state persons who produce Certified seed in Mississippi shall state in writing whether or not all of the Certified seed being produced in Mississippi is to be produced in the name of the owner or firm name, or whether part of the seed is to be produced in the name of the tenant and/or share-cropper.

XXVIII. DEFINITIONS:

Whenever the following terms or similar terms are used therein, they shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- A. FARM - A farm is any size area of land operated 100 percent as a separate unit as to equipment.
- B. CONDITIONING - The term conditioning means cleaning, bagging, treating, or any other operation which may or may not improve the quality of the seed.
- C. CUSTOM CONDITIONER - The term custom conditioner shall mean any person or firm who conditions seed other than seed grown by him or for him under contract.
- D. NON-CUSTOM CONDITIONER - The term non-custom conditioner shall mean any person or firm who conditions only seed grown by him or for him under contract.
- E. MISSISSIPPI NOXIOUS WEEDS - The term noxious weeds shall mean the weeds listed as Noxious Weeds in the Mississippi Pure Seed Law and Regulations.

- F. NOXIOUS WEEDS - Those weeds defined by MCIA to be prohibited in the field and seed.
- G. LOT - The term "seed lot" or "lot of seed" means a definite quantity of seed identified by a lot number or other identification mark, every portion, or bag of which is uniform for the factors which appear on the label, within permitted tolerances.
- H. VARIANT - Variant means any seed or plant which (a) is distinct within the variety but occurs naturally in the variety, (b) is 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, and (c) was originally a part of the variety as released. A variant is not an off-type.
- I. OFF-TYPE - 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; seeds 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.
- J. OPEN-POLLINATION - Open-pollinated seed is seed produced as a result of natural pollination as opposed to hybrid seed produced as a result of controlled pollination.
- K. GENETICALLY ENGINEERED VARIETIES - Progeny of plants which have been produced by transformation and/or tissue culture selection to insert genes and/or selected for value-added traits.

XXIX. WEED SEED DESIGNATED NOXIOUS BY MISSISSIPPI PURE SEED LAW AND REGULATIONS:

Land used for the production of Certified seed should be free of all noxious weeds that produce seed that will be difficult to separate from the crop seed. Under the Mississippi Pure Seed Law and Regulations, certain weeds are classified as "Prohibited" and "Restricted" noxious. THE LAW PROHIBITS THE SALE OF CROP SEEDS CONTAINING ANY PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEED SEEDS. There are other weeds considered objectionable in certain crops - (see "Specific Certification Standards" for each crop).

The following is a list of weeds considered noxious in Mississippi as contained in the "Mississippi Pure Seed Law and Regulations" of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture.

Rule No. 2. Noxious Weeds

Name	Allowed per pound
Crotalaria (Crotalaria spp.)	Prohibited
Field Bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)	Prohibited
Hedge Bindweed (Calystegia sepium)	Prohibited
Nutgrass (Cyperus rotundus and C. esculentus)	Prohibited
Serrated Tussock (Nassella trichotoma)	Prohibited
Tropical Soda Apple (Solanum spp.)	Prohibited
Balloon Vine (Caridospermum halicacabum) *NTA	2
Bermudagrass (Cynodon spp.)	100
Blessed Thistle (Cnicus benedictus)	27
Brackted and Buckhorn Plantain (Plantago spp.)	100
Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense)	54
Cheat and Chess (Bromus spp.)	144
Cocklebur (Xanthium spp.) *NTA	2
Corncockle (Agrostemma githago)	100
Darnel (Lolium temulentum)	54
Dock and Sorrel (Rumex spp.)	100
Dodder (Cuscuta spp.)	54
Foxtail (Setaria spp.)	54
Johnsongrass (Sorghum halepense) and Sorghum alnum and perennial rhizomatous derivatives of these	54
Purple Moonflower (Ipomoea turbinata) *NTA	2
Morningglory (Ipomoea spp.)	9
When sold in a reseeding soybean or wildlife mixture	27
Sicklepod (Senna obtusifolia)	5
Quackgrass (Elytrigia repens)	54
Red Rice (Oryza spp.) *NTA	1
Wild Mustards and Wild Turnips (Brassica spp.)	54
Wild Onion and Wild Garlic (Allium spp.) *NTA	5
Wild Radish (Raphanus raphanistrum)	18

***NO TOLERANCE APPLIED**

XXX. GERMINATION TOLERANCES DESIGNATED BY MISSISSIPPI PURE SEED LAW AND REGULATIONS:

The following tolerances are applicable to the percentages of germination and also to the sum of the germination plus the hard seed when 400 or more seeds are tested.

MEAN	TOLERANCE
96 or over.	5
90 or over but less than 96.	6
80 or over but less than 90.	7
70 or over but less than 80.	8
60 or over but less than 70.	9
Less than 60*.	10

*Seed Law provides minimum of 60% germination content for agricultural seed.

XXXI. CERTIFICATION OF SEED IN THE BULK:

A. CERTIFICATION OF SEED IN THE BULK SHALL BE LIMITED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Certification of seed in the bulk shall be limited to the Certified class.
2. Seed Certified in the bulk and sold in the bulk shall not be eligible for Re-certification.
3. Bulk sales of seed Certified in the bulk shall be made only by the grower-applicant directly to the consumer who will be planting the seed.
4. When requested, a certificate for each approved lot will be issued from MCIA office to the grower-applicant covering the entire quantity or lot of seed Certified in the bulk. A charge at the same rate per bushel as tags for bagged seed will be made at the time the certificate is issued. After a bulk certificate is issued on a lot, a bulk retail certificate must be used for each sale of the lot Certified in the bulk.
5. No Certification tags will be issued for seed sold in the bulk.
6. Seed of a lot Certified in the bulk for which a certificate has been issued may be tagged by the grower-applicant provided a sample is drawn from the bagged seed for purity and germination and meets the seed standards.

7. Agricultural seeds exposed for sale stored in bulk, shall be labeled by attaching to the bin, tank, box or other container in a conspicuous place, a tag or label stating the information required by the Mississippi Pure Seed Law and the rules and regulations thereunder. Copy of the same shall also be supplied to each purchaser at time of sale. (From Pure Seed Law and Regulations)

B. OFFICIAL SAMPLES:

1. Official samples for complete test must be drawn using AOSA rules for seed sampling from the cleaned seed after conditioning and/or treating.
2. Maximum size of bulk lots will be limited to the quantity approved for drawing official samples, i.e. depth sampling equipment will operate, working room to operate equipment and access to all parts of the storage.
3. Identification of bulk lots: Lot numbers and bin designations must be maintained until disposal of the entire lot is complete.
4. Once official samples are taken, no additional seed may be added to the lot.
5. If sixty (60) days elapses between the bulk sample date reported for germination and the second sample from the cleaned seed for purity, a complete analysis is required. (OFFICIAL sampling in bulk requires a post-processing sample to be submitted to the State Seed Testing Laboratory to fulfill GERMINATION requirements set forth by the MISSISSIPPI PURE SEED LAW.
6. FOR RICE ONLY: If germination is 90% or greater, then one hundred twenty (120) days elapses between the bulk sample date reported for germination and the second sample from the cleaned seed for purity, a complete analysis is required. If germination is 89% or lower then item 5. above will apply. (OFFICIAL sampling in bulk requires a post-processing sample to be submitted to the State Seed Testing Laboratory to fulfill GERMINATION requirements set forth by the MISSISSIPPI PURE SEED LAW.

C. APPROVED STORAGE FOR BULK SEED:

In order to store bulk seed, detailed arrangements must be made with, and approved by MCIA before conditioning. Storage must be such that genetic identity and purity can be maintained and no mixture will occur. All bins must be constructed so that bin openings can be kept closed to prevent contamination.

THE MISSISSIPPI CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MAKES IT CLEAR THAT MERCHANDISING SEED IN BULK IS PERMITTED AS A CONVENIENCE TO ITS MEMBERS, AND IS THEREFORE, A PRIVILEGE. FURTHER, THAT ABUSES OF THIS PRIVILEGE OF BULK MERCHANDISING IN ANY FORM WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION OF THIS PRIVILEGE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CROP YEAR.

.....
THIS COPY TO BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION IN THE STATE RECEIVING THE SEED.

XXXII. REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTIFIED SEED CONDITIONING PLANTS:

A. DEFINITIONS:

1. Custom Conditioner - The term custom conditioner shall mean any person or firm who conditions seed other than seed grown by him, or for him under contract.
2. Non-Custom Conditioner - The term non-custom conditioner shall mean any person or firm who conditions only seed grown by him, or for him under contract.
3. The term "condition" or conditioning" referred to in connection with bonded seed conditioning plants is defined as any handling procedure used in connection with seed which may or may not improve the quality of such seed.

B. BOND:

Custom conditioning plants which condition Mississippi Certified seed shall be BONDED in the minimum amount of \$5,000.00. These plants shall be inspected and approved by a representative of MCIA. Plants applying for bond shall make application to MCIA for inspection and must be approved BEFORE BEING BONDED AND BEFORE CONDITIONING BEGINS. There will be a \$100.00 charge for this original or initial inspection each year. (Model bond in this Handbook.)

Bond is to be made payable to MCIA. In event of forfeiture, none of the amount forfeited shall accrue to the Association. The amount forfeited shall be used to reimburse the planter of seed or any other handler or user of the seed for any definite financial loss which he may have sustained due to negligence on the part of the conditioner in handling the seed.

C. PLANT INSPECTION CHARGES:

1. CUSTOM BONDED CONDITIONING PLANTS will be charged \$25.00 per inspection. If a plant is not ready for inspection on arrival of the inspector, the plant will be charged \$5.00 per hour for the time lost in excess of two hours allotted for the actual inspection.
2. Non-custom seed conditioning plants will not be required to have a bond or annual inspection, but will be required to follow these regulations governing Certified seed conditioning plants. MCIA reserves the right to inspect a non-custom plant at any time.

D. HANDLING OTHER SEED IN A PLANT:

A plant shall not contain any seed other than the Certified crop to be conditioned unless such other seed is properly bagged, tagged, labeled, and stored so as to avoid mixture, as determined by the inspecting agency. In cases where special construction and arrangements have been made, it MAY be possible to store more than one variety of SEED under the same roof, but special arrangements must first be approved by MCIA.

If, in the judgement of the inspecting agency, the inspection reveals that these regulations governing Certified seed conditioning plants were not followed, or any part of the conditioning plant or any part or all of the conditioning equipment therein is not suitable to safely handle Mississippi Certified seed or seed that may be Certified, MCIA may refuse to approve such plants to handle Certified seed.

E. IDENTIFYING SEED:

After a given portion of seed has been conditioned and so designated as a lot of seed, that particular portion of seed shall always be marked or designated as that particular lot. MCIA shall have the right to limit the number of bags in a given lot of seed.

The plant manager shall stencil the lot number on each bag of a given lot of seed or shall attach a tag bearing the lot number to each bag of seed.

Identity of seed by crop, variety, lot number, and grower is to be maintained at all times. All bags and all seed of any given lot shall always be stored or stacked together and not mixed with any other bags of seed.

F. RECORDS:

Records must be kept on report forms furnished by MCIA, and such records shall show:

1. Name and address of producer
2. Previous variety conditioned
3. Variety being conditioned
4. Pounds, tons, or bushels of seed received
5. Date received
6. Date conditioned
7. Lot number of conditioned seed
8. Number and weight of bags conditioned in each lot
9. Number of tags received for a lot
10. Number of tags used for a lot
11. Advance tags
12. State of origin
13. Date plant inspected

14. Signature of plant representative

A copy of these records shall be sent to the MCIA office, Mississippi State, Mississippi, postmarked not later than ten days after the lot covered by these records has been conditioned.

G. DRAWING SAMPLES:

If official seed samples are to be drawn at the conditioning plant, such samples shall be drawn by a representative of MCIA using AOSA rules for seed sampling, AFTER THE SEED HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED AND BAGGED IN NEW BAGS.

H. BAGGING, TAGGING, SEALING, AND/OR STORING:

If conditioning plants bag, tag, seal, and/or store Certified seed or seed which may be Certified, any one or more of such operations shall be performed in accordance with the regulations of MCIA.

I. CANCELLATION OF BOND:

The Mississippi Crop Improvement Association shall have the right and authority to cancel the bond of any bonded seed conditioning plant if any of the regulations governing Certified seed conditioning plants are violated by such plants.

J. CHECKING PLANT RECORDS:

The Mississippi Crop Improvement Association shall have the right to inspect the record books of any plant at any time.

MODEL BOND FOR CERTIFIED SEED CONDITIONING PLANTS

_____ Bond Number _____

(Name and Address of Plant)
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That we,

_____ as Principal,

(Name of Conditioner)
and _____ the
(Name

and Address of Bonding Company)
as SURETY, are held and firmly bound unto Mississippi Crop Improvement Association of Mississippi State,
Mississippi, in the full and just sum of
_____ Dollars*

for the payment of which well and truly to be made, we, and each of us, do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs,
executors, administrators, successors and assigns, firmly, by these presents.

WHEREAS, the said Principal operates a seed conditioning plant and desires to qualify with said Obligee to
perform in accord with said Obligee's established and published rules and regulations governing the conditioning of
seed which have been (or are to be) Certified by it.

Note: The term "Condition" and "Conditioning" referred to in connection with bonded seed conditioning
plants is defined as any handling procedure used in connection with seed which may or may not improve the quality
of such seed.

If bonded conditioning plants bag, tag, seal and/or store Certified seed or seed which may be Certified, any one
or more of such operations shall be performed in accordance with the regulations of the Mississippi Crop
Improvement Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION is such that if the said
principal shall from the _____ day of _____, to the
_____ day of _____, well and truly indemnify
and save harmless the said Obligee from any and all liability it may incur by reason of the failure of said Principal
to comply with and abide by the established and published rules and regulations of said Obligee as respect any one
or more of the functions mentioned above, then this obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and
effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that no new liability shall accrue under this bond fifteen days after receipt by the
Obligee or written notice from the Surety of its desire to cancel this bond.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that this obligation may be continued for any subsequent year by continuation
certificate, signed and sealed by the said Surety.

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED, this the _____ day of _____

Firm _____ Bonding
Principal

_____ by: _____

Signature of Plant Owner Attorney in Fact

*The Regulations of the MCLIA Require a Minimum of \$5,000.00.

XXXIII. PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN ACCEPTING NEW CROPS OR VARIETIES FOR CERTIFICATION:

- A. The new crops or varieties must be approved by the Certification Committee of MCIA before being eligible for Certification.
- B. If a new crop or variety originated in another state and is offered for Certification in Mississippi prior to the time it has had sufficient testing in the State of Mississippi, the Certification Committee may accept such crop or variety for Certification based on out-of-state experimental data and/or data compiled on this crop or variety from other sources.
- C. Before a variety will be considered for Certification, the originator, developer, owner, or agent must request Certification and must provide the following information:
 - 1. The name of the variety.
 - 2. A statement of the variety's origin and the breeding procedure used in its development.
 - 3. A detailed description of the morphological, physiological, and other important characteristics of plants and seed, including variants and the frequency of their occurrence that distinguish the variety from other varieties.
 - 4. Evidence of performance, including comparative yield data, insect and disease resistance and other factors supporting the identity of the variety. The performance tests may be conducted by private seed firms or public agricultural experiment stations and shall include appropriate check varieties.
 - 5. A statement on the suggested area of adaptation and the purpose for which the variety will be used. This should include states or provinces and areas within states or provinces where the variety has been tested and is expected to be recommended and merchandised.
 - 6. A statement on the plans and procedures for the maintenance for stock seed classes, including number of generations through which the variety may be multiplied.
 - 7. A description of the manner in which the variety is constituted when a particular cycle of reproduction or multiplication is specified.

8. 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 to variety of future stock seed releases. The sample size shall be that required under Section 1.4 in the current issue of Rules of Testing Seeds of the Association of Official Seed Analysts.
- D. The name under which any variety or hybrid shall be Certified shall be the name given to the variety by the originating plant breeder, institution, or firm.
- E. The breeder or owner of a variety may place additional restrictions on the variety with respect to factors affecting genetic purity such as the area of adaptation, age of stand, and Certified classes and generations through which seed of that variety may be multiplied.

XXXIV. PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS FOR ACCEPTING NEW PLANT BREEDING FIRMS:

- A. Any individual, firm, or corporation desiring to be granted the status of a commercial plant breeding firm must submit to MCIA a general outline of their proposed methods of seed production for the Breeder and Foundation classes of seed. This outline of methods of production must be approved by the Board of Directors of MCIA who must use as their guide, standard and accepted seed production and increase methods as recognized by leading commercial, state, and federal breeders. This firm must also have employed an agronomist as defined in Paragraph C.
- B. An applicant, in order to qualify for approval by MCIA, must have access to the minimum equipment necessary for properly conditioning the seed produced by the firm as approved by MCIA.
- C. As used in this Handbook, the term agronomist refers to a graduate in agronomy or other plant science from an accredited agricultural college or university with acceptable training and/or experience in plant breeding, or a non-agricultural college graduate with acceptable training and/or experience as defined below:
 1. M.S. degree or higher in plant breeding
 2. M.S. degree in plant science other than plant breeding with one year's experience
 3. B.S. degree in plant science and two years' practical experience in plant breeding
 4. Non-agricultural college graduate with five years' experience in plant breeding

XXXV.INTERAGENCY CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES:

Interagency Certification is the participation of two or more Certifying Agencies in performing the services required to Certify the same final lot or lots of seed. Generally, the methods and standards employed in each step of the Interagency Certification process are identical with those used when Certification is completed by a single agency.

It is recognized that in many cases, especially those involving increases of stock seed classes, detailed arrangements may be made between two agencies for the specific case involved. The following standards and procedures are provided to serve as a basis for uniform operation without prior arrangements between the agencies involved.

A. VARIETIES ELIGIBLE:

A variety shall be recommended by the State or Governmental Experiment Station in the area of intended use and be eligible for Certification by a member agency of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies.

B. AGENCIES ELIGIBLE:

Only member Agencies of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies may participate.

C. APPLICATION OF STANDARDS:

The Seed Certification Standards as adopted by the Certifying Agency issuing the Interagency Certification labels shall be applied, provided those standards meet the minimum Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies' standards for the kind and variety in question.

In the absence of standards, the label issuing Agency may apply the seed standards of the state in which the seed was field inspected.

D. EVIDENCE OF SEED ELIGIBILITY:

Seed to be recognized for Interagency Certification shall be received in containers carrying official Certification labels or evidence of its eligibility from another Certifying Agency including the following:

1. Variety and kind.
2. Amount of seed (pounds or bushels).
3. Seed class eligibility (Foundation, Registered, or Certified Blue Tag).
4. Inspection or lot number traceable to a Certifying Agency's records.

E. PRIOR APPROVAL OF COOPERATING CERTIFICATION AGENCIES:

No Agency (within the limits of Section B) shall be required to obtain the prior approval of another Agency to engage in Interagency Certification activities unless the original Certifying Agency prohibits or limits Interagency Certification by a statement on its label, provided complete information is returned to the Certifying Agency last having jurisdiction of the seed. Such information shall include the amount of seed received, amount of seed finally Certified, nature of service rendered (re-cleaning, re-bagging, or re-tagging), and lot numbers of seed involved.

F. APPROVAL AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONDITIONERS:

Conditioners desiring Interagency Certification services shall apply to the Certifying Agency in the state where services are to be performed. Each Certifying Agency shall stipulate requirements to be met by cooperating conditioners including the following:

1. Facilities shall be adequate to perform the function requested without introducing admixtures.
2. Identity of the seed must be maintained at all times.
3. Records of all operations shall be complete and adequate to account for all incoming and finally Certified seed. These shall include:
 - a. Receiving records, including the following information:
 1. Variety and kind
 2. Name and address of shipper
 3. Shipper's lot number or inspection number
 4. Date of shipment
 5. Date received
 6. Weight received

7. Receiving lot number assigned to the lot of seed by the consignee
 8. Name and address of delivering carrier
- b. Record of blending, cleaning, other conditioning, also rebagging including:
1. Variety and kind
 2. Lot number of component lots used in making final or blended lot and final lot number
 3. Number of bags and weight of each component
 4. Number of bags and weight of re-cleaned seed or blended seed
 5. Weight of refuse or screening and its disposition
 6. Date conditioned or re-bagged
- c. Disposition or stock record shall include:
1. Variety and kind
 2. Number of bags and weight of the final lot
 3. Invoice number and weight covering each shipment
 4. Balance remaining after each shipment
 5. Amount used in other lots and the identity of the other lot into which it was blended
- d. Invoice or other sales record which shall include:
1. Variety and kind
 2. Name and address of the buyer or consignee
 3. Date sold or shipped
 4. Number of bags and weight of seed sold or shipped
 5. Lot number
4. Conditioners shall permit inspection by the Certifying Agency of all records of the kind of seed conditioned, including both Certified and Non-Certified.

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. In all cases of re-bagging, blending, scarifying, treating, re-cleaning, or other conditioning, the conditioner assumes the risk of seed failing to meet Certification requirements.

G. INSPECTION OF CONDITIONING OPERATIONS:

The Certifying Agency shall make as many inspections of both seed and records as may be required to provide documentation that only the seed meeting requirements is labeled with Certified labels.

H. SAMPLES:

An official sample for laboratory analysis will be drawn from each lot to be Certified. A representative of MCIA or the certifying agency will draw this official sample upon request of the conditioner.

I. LABELS AND TAGGING:

Labels issued for Interagency Certified seed shall be serially numbered or carry a lot number and clearly show the Certifying Agencies involved, the variety, kind and class of seed and analysis data from the Official Seed Testing Laboratory reports.

XXXVI. GENETICALLY ENGINEERED VARIETIES:

When Certifying genetically engineered varieties with genes for specific value-added traits, the Certification agency should confirm the presence of these genes or traits and that they occur at or above minimum acceptable levels as indicated by the owners of such varieties.

In cases where the Certification agency has not been provided with test protocols and/or does not possess capability for making such determinations, the Certification agency must be provided with test results along with descriptions of procedures used in performing these tests. A representative of the Certification agency may observe tests being performed by personnel of the owners of such varieties. The test protocols and procedures may be designated as "confidential" by the company.