

CERTIFIED BLENDS

Provisions and Procedures

August 17, 2001

Definition:

Eligible seed lots of one variety blended to form a larger lot of uniform quality that meets Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS) standards. Each component seed lot must be derived from a certified field, however, it does not necessarily need to meet the seed standards for a certification class.

It is considered a blend if:

- a) The lots are produced by different growers in the same crop year, or
- b) The lots are produced by the same grower in different crop years.

Procedures:

1. Document availability of all component lots (see "General Provisions" below).
2. Submit complete Request for Blend Approval to OSCS.
3. Receive approved Request for Blend Approval from OSCS.
4. Keep all certification tags for each component lot used in the blend.
5. Request that your county certification sampler draw a certified sample of the final blend lot for testing (see "Conditioning and Testing Requirements" below).
6. Request tags from OSCS once the blend lot eligibility is established (see "Tagging Provisions" below).
7. Forward to the OSCS office within 10 days of completing the blend process:
 - a) Copy of the approved Request for Certified Blend Approval, with
 - b) All certification tags removed from the original bags, bundled by lot number.

General Provisions:

- Certified blends may only be blended at OSCS-approved seed conditioning facilities.
- OSCS must approve Request for Blend Approval prior to blending the seed lots.
- Blends can be prepared for any class of certified seed, however, the lowest class shall apply when seed lots of different classes are blended together.
- Blending may be approved to upgrade eligible seed lots of lower seed quality.
- The blend's lot number must adhere to the following format: (a)B - (b) - (c) where
 - (a) = The warehouse designation assigned by OSCS for the blending facility, followed by "B" to identify the lot as a blend;
 - (b) = The last digit of the current calendar year;
 - (c) = A sequence of letters and/or numerals assigned by the requesting company.
- The availability of all component lots must be documented to OSCS before tags are issued for the blend lot. The method depends upon the particular circumstance:
 1. If the component lot is not tagged, or is tagged with adhesive certification labels, your county certification sampler must physically verify the inventory before blending begins. It is more expedient to have the sampler verify the inventory and sign the Request for Blend Approval prior to submitting the form to OSCS. This provision may be waived if the component lot was previously conditioned and sampled at the same facility where the blend is being completed, or if the requesting company is authorized by OSCS to submit mixture requests on-line (reference On-line Mixture Authorization document).
 2. If the component lot is tagged with hang-on or staple-on certification tags, submission of these tags serves to document the available inventory. The certification tags should be removed from the sacks, bundled by lot number and forwarded to the OSCS office (see "Procedures" #7b). Consequently, if all of the component lots are tagged in this manner, a physical count of the inventory by your county certification sampler is not required.
- Lots may not exceed the size limits established for particular crops by the Oregon Seed Law (Chapter 603, paragraphs 56-125). Most grass and clover lots are limited to 55,000 pounds. There is no size

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limit for grain lots. OECD seed lots may not exceed 22,000 pounds (44,000 pounds if the seed size is the same as, or larger than, a kernel of wheat). A tolerance of five percent is permitted on this maximum.

- If the final blend weight exceeds the sum of the component poundage by more than five percent the requesting company must submit a written justification and revised Request for Certified Blend Approval to OSCS for review.
- Interagency certification of component lots is accomplished according to the provisions set forth in the Oregon Certified Seed Handbook (see "Conditioning and Testing Requirements").
- The requesting company, or its representative, must maintain all records related to the blending and distribution of the blended lot and the acquisition of its components. These records must be provided to OSCS upon our request.
- Certification of the blend lot is completed when all required materials are submitted to OSCS (see "Procedures" #7).
- Failure to meet the requirements of these Provisions and Procedures for certified blends may result in the recall of certification tags or a loss of certification privileges.

Conditioning and Testing Requirements:

- A blend composed solely of previously certified seed, must be sampled and tested for purity. A certified sample must be drawn by your county certification sampler and tested according to OSCS provisions. If 18 months have passed since the last viability test of any of the component lots, the blend sample must also be tested for viability. When completing the Sample Certificate for the blended lot, leave the "Grower" and "Field Number" entries blank, and list the "Sample Category" as "Resample" and the "Sample Class" as "Blend".
- The seed quality weighted averages for the proposed blend must meet the seed standards for the particular certified class. If not, the component lots or final blend lot must be cleaned at the time of blending.
- Component lots containing prohibited noxious weed seeds on the purity test may not be blended until conditioned, tested and qualified. Prohibited weed seeds are designated in the Oregon State Seed Law and by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, and are listed in the Oregon Certified Seed Handbook.
- Component lots requiring interagency certification must have an all-states noxious weed seed exam, and meet another state's or Oregon's certification standards, to qualify for immediate eligibility.
- Eligible component lots weighing more than 2000 pounds must be tested for purity and viability according to OSCS provisions, including a fluorescence test on ryegrasses.
- Eligible component lots weighing less than 2000 pounds that have been conditioned, but not tested, require OSCS approval.

Tagging Provisions and Requirements:

- The issuance of certification tags is based on component lot eligibility, qualifying seed tests for the blend lot, and compliance with these Provisions and Procedures for certified blends.
- Certified tags may be issued for the blend lot in advance of a completed purity test if all of the component seed lots meet the requirements for an OSCS certification tag and a certified sample is received for testing.
- Early-sampling and advance-tagging provisions may apply.
- All component lot certification tags must be forwarded to the Oregon Seed Certification office within 10 days of completing the blend.