

## **CERTIFIED MIXTURES**

Provisions and Procedures

*August 17, 2001*

### **Definition:**

Certified seed lots of different varieties of one or more crop kinds mixed and labeled "Mixture of Certified Seed" (blue tag). Varieties currently listed in the Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS) program as Experimental or OECD-only cannot be included in a certified mixture.

### **Procedures:**

1. Document availability of all component lots (see "General Provisions" below).
2. Submit complete Request for Certified Mixture Approval to OSCS.
3. Receive approved Request for Certified Mixture Approval from OSCS.
4. Keep all certification tags for all component lots used in the mixture.
5. Forward to the OSCS office within 10 days of completing the mixture process:
  - a) Copy of the approved Request for Certified Mixture Approval listing the final lot size (total weight and count);
  - b) All certification tags removed from the original bags, bundled by lot number;
  - c) All extra certification tags issued by OSCS that were not needed to cover an anticipated weight gain for the mixture;
  - d) One of the analysis labels used for the mixture lot.

### **General Provisions:**

- Certified mixtures may only be mixed at OSCS-approved seed conditioning facilities.
- Mixtures must be approved by OSCS prior to mixing seed lots.
- The mixture's lot number must adhere to the following format: (a)M - (b) - (c) where
  - (a) = The warehouse designation assigned by OSCS for the mixing facility, followed by "M" to identify the lot as a mixture;
  - (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 mixture 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 mixing begins. It is more expedient to have the sampler verify the inventory and sign the Request for Mixture 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 mixture is being completed, or if the requesting company is authorized by OSCS to submit mixture requests on-line (reference provisions for On-line Mixture Authorization).
  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" #4 and #5b). 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.
- The Request for Mixture Approval must accurately reflect the intended mixture. Any change concerning the component lots, their tag status, the intended mixture weight, sack count or lot number requires the submission and approval of a revised Request for Mixture Approval.
- Lots may not exceed the size limits established for the particular crop by the Oregon State Seed Law (Chapter 603, paragraphs 56-125). Most grass and clover lots are limited to 55,000 pounds. A tolerance of five percent is permitted on this maximum.

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- If the final mixture weight exceeds the sum of the component poundage by more than five percent, the requesting company must submit a written justification and a revised Request for Certified Mixture 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 mixing and distribution of the mixture lot and the acquisition of its components. These records must be provided to OSCS upon our request.
- Certification of the mixture lot is completed when all required materials are submitted to OSCS (see "Procedures" #5).
- Failure to meet the requirements of these Provisions and Procedures for certified mixtures may result in the recall of certification tags or a loss of certification privileges.

**Conditioning and Testing Requirements:**

- Eligible seed lots must have qualifying purity and viability tests. The viability test must be completed within the past 18 months.
- Early-sampling or advance-tagging provisions may apply.
- Component lots requiring interagency certification must have an all-states noxious weed seed exam, and meet either another state's or Oregon's certification standards. A copy of the qualifying certified test report must be provided.

**Tagging Provisions and Requirements:**

- The issuance of Certified tags stating "Mixture of Certified Seed" is based on component lot eligibility and compliance with these Provisions and Procedures for certified mixtures.
- All component lot certification tags must be forwarded to the Oregon Seed Certification office within 10 days of completing the mixture.