



Oregon State
University

Oregon Seed Certification Service
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Guidelines for Certification of Industrial Hemp Seed in Oregon July 1, 2019

Definitions

- “Industrial hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of such plant whether growing or not with a delta-9 THC concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis including the following kinds:
 - Dioecious: Types with male and female flowers on separate plants
 - Monoecious: Types with male flowers and female flowers separated but on the same plants
 - Unisex hybrids: Types with sterile male flowers and fertile female flowers on the same plant
- “Approved variety” means any variety of industrial hemp approved through one of the Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS) variety approval processes.
- “Seed certification” means the process to ensure varietal purity and seed quality through review and retention of crop production records and a series of field and laboratory evaluations.

Grower Eligibility

- Only growers licensed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to produce industrial hemp are eligible to produce certified hemp seed.
- Growers must provide proof of a current ODA hemp grower and hemp seed license with their application for field inspection.

Varietal Eligibility

- Only varieties approved by OSCS are eligible for production of certified classes of seed.
- To be eligible for certification, approved varieties must meet all the requirements of Federal Seed Act 201.68.
- Only varieties that are accepted by one of the following will be accepted for certification:
 - AOSCA national variety review board
 - An official seed certifying agency
 - OECD

Seed Source Eligibility

- Documentation of the planting stock of an approved variety must be submitted at the time of application. All original tags must be submitted with the application. Scans or copies will not be accepted.
- Breeder seed is the original source of all classes of certified seed, typically used to produce Foundation class seed.
- Foundation seed is produced from Breeder seed and can be used to produce Registered and Certified class seed.
- Registered seed is produced from Foundation class seed and is used to produce Certified class seed.
- Certified class seed is produced from any of the above classes and is generally the seed sold to the commercial market.

Field Eligibility

- Field eligibility requirements are intended to reduce or eliminate the potential for contamination from volunteer plants. Eligibility is determined by previous cropping history and the class of seed being produced.
- Foundation and Registered seed may not be produced on fields that produced industrial hemp in the previous five years and not for the previous three years for Certified class seed.
- Fields should be selected with isolation requirements in mind. Isolation from other fields of industrial hemp are three miles for the Foundation and Registered class and one mile for the Certified class seed fields. Growers should plan ahead to ensure no other hemp production is planned within the isolation areas.

Planting Requirements

- Fields should be planted to facilitate rogueing and field inspections. Solid seeding is not allowed due to the difficulty in getting through the field and identifying plants that need to be removed.

Rogueing

- Rogueing to remove off-type plants should be completed prior to the arrival of the field inspector. The field inspector's job is to assess the purity of the seed field according to the variety description, not to identify problems for the producer to address later.
- Identification of fertile, pollen producing off-types during the field inspection is too late and will likely result in the failure of the inspection and the certified seed crop.
- Rogued plants must be removed from the field in a way that regrowth is not possible.

Field Inspection

- Seed producers must apply for field inspection with OSCS within 15 days of planting.
- Applications received after that time frame will be assessed late fees.
- Applications submitted after the optimal time for inspection will be rejected.
- Field must be inspected at a stage of growth when varietal purity is best determined. It is important that the seed producer communicates with OSCS to ensure that the crop is inspected at the optimal time.
- All classes of seed (Foundation, Registered, Certified) – two inspections are required
 - The first inspection will be made after the formation of male flowers, preferably before pollen is shed, and before female flowers are receptive.
 - Second inspections will be made when female flowers are receptive.

Seed Conditioning

- To be eligible for final certification, seed must be conditioned at an OSCS approved cleaning facility (warehouse) by the seed grower or by a contracted seed cleaner. A list of approved conditioners is maintained by OSCS. Seed conditioned by a non-approved conditioner will not be eligible for certification.
- It is possible that currently approved OSCS warehouses have limited to no experience with conditioning hemp seed so be sure to ask questions to protect your seed crop.

Lab Testing

- All eligible seed lots must be tested for purity and germination by the Oregon State University Seed Laboratory.
- Certification samples must be drawn, by OSCS samplers only, at the warehouse where it was cleaned. If the seed lot is moved prior to sampling, the seed lot becomes ineligible for certification.
- Only seed lots from plants that meet the ODA requirements for THC levels will be eligible for labelling.
- THC testing will be conducted by the ODA according to their rules. The results from these tests must be submitted to OSCS to confirm eligibility for certification.

Final Certification

- Field inspected seed is not certified until a clean sample has been tested and the results have been determined to meet or exceed seed standards for the class of seed.
- Once final certification has been completed, tags will only be issued to the grower or seed contractor on the original application.
- Tags must be attached to the containers of seed or returned if not used.