

**ANNEX XIII TO THE DECISION
OECD SCHEME FOR THE CERTIFICATION OR CONTROL OF
VEGETABLE SEED**

Rules and Regulations

1. General

- 1.1 The OECD Vegetable Seed Scheme shall cover seed of varieties of vegetables produced, processed, sampled and labelled in accordance with the Rules and Regulations which form the subject of the following paragraphs and which are regarded as minimum requirements.
- 1.2 The Scheme shall be implemented in the participating countries under the responsibility of the national governments that will designate Authorities for this purpose. The list of countries participating in the OECD Vegetable Seed Scheme is given in Appendix 7.
- 1.3 The OECD Vegetable Seed Scheme provides for:
 - 1.3.1 the production of Certified Seed directly produced through one generation from authentic Basic Seed of the variety. The main factor determining the quality of Certified Seed is the quality of the Basic Seed and for this reason inspections and tests for Basic Seed are prescribed; Certified Seed is subjected to post-control tests;
 - 1.3.2 the designation of seed as "Standard Seed" that is checked by sampling and subjecting a certain number of samples to post-control tests.
- 1.4 The OECD Vegetable Seed Scheme is not intended to interfere in any way with the trade in "commercial" seed, that is seed which is neither Certified nor traded as Standard Seed under the terms of the Scheme and is of a variety that may or may not be included in the official lists, but which is produced and traded entirely under the responsibility of its sellers, subject to the national laws and regulations.

PART I.

The Production of Basic and Certified Seed

2. Acceptance of varieties

A variety shall be accepted for the production of Basic or Certified Seed only when a National Designated Authority has checked that it is distinct and that its generation used for vegetable production has sufficiently uniform and stable characters. An adequate description, including essential morphological or physiological characters, must be available.

3. List of eligible varieties

- 3.1 In each country an official national list of varieties that have been accepted under Rule 2 shall be published and annually revised. Synonyms and homonyms must be clearly indicated in these lists.
- 3.2 Only seed of listed varieties is eligible for certification according to the Scheme.
- 3.3 The name and address of the maintainer of each variety shall be given.
- 3.4 Varieties shall not be maintained in the list if the conditions of acceptance are no longer fulfilled.

4. Designation of categories of seed

The following categories of seed, as defined in Appendix 1, are recognised in the Scheme.

- Pre-Basic Seed
- Basic Seed
- Certified Seed

5. Production of Basic and Certified seed

- 5.1 Basic Seed of each variety shall be produced under the responsibility of the maintainer who will maintain a supply of parental material and ensure that it preserves the characters of the variety. For those varieties, for which there is more than one maintainer, each shall accept this responsibility.
- 5.2 If the Basic Seed is produced in a country other than the country of registration of the variety, technical conditions must be agreed in advance by the National Designated Authorities of both countries concerned.
- 5.3 Certified Seed may be produced in the country of origin of the variety or in another country. The person or persons responsible for the production of the Certified Seed shall inform the National Designated Authority in the country of production that a multiplication is being made and carry out at least one field inspection of each crop. The results of the field inspection shall be reported to

the National Designated Authority. A signed statement that the published requirements referred to in 6.1 above have been met shall also be submitted.

6. Control of the production of the seed

6.1 *Requirements of the production and field inspection*

- 6.1.1 In each participating country, requirements for the production of Basic Seed and Certified Seed approved under the Scheme as being satisfactory for varietal identity and purity shall be officially applied. These requirements shall not be lower than those given in Appendix 2.
- 6.1.2 The National Designated Authority must satisfy itself by inspection of the plants at an appropriate stage or stages during production that the lot is acceptable.
- 6.1.3 In the case of production of seed of “Certified” category, the National Designated Authority may, under official supervision, authorise non-official inspectors to operate field inspection with a view to seed certification, on the conditions described in Appendix 8-A. The National Designated Authority which decides to use this method must define the operation scope (species, territories, areas and period concerned), ensure the official check inspections, sampling and post-control tests and other requirements as set out in Appendix 8-A, and take all necessary measures to guarantee equivalent inspection in the sense of the Schemes for field inspected by authorised inspector or by official.

A minimum of 20 per cent of the seed crops entered for certification of each species of vegetable shall be officially field inspected. The National Designated Authority will check that each field inspection report shows that the requirements of Rule 6.1 have been met.

- 6.2 The National *Designated* Authority must take all practicable steps to ensure that the identity and varietal purity of the seed have been maintained between harvest and the sealing and labelling of containers.

6.3 *Seed lot sampling and seed analysis*

6.3.1 *Seed lot sampling, fastening and labelling of containers*

- 6.3.1.1 Seed lot sampling, fastening and labelling of containers shall be made by the National Designated Authority.
- 6.3.1.2 An official sample shall be drawn from each cleaned lot of Basic and Certified Seed submitted for certification and the seed containers fastened and made identifiable or labelled in accordance with Rules 8 and 9. The sample shall be large enough to meet the requirements outlined in this Rule and Rule 7. The sample shall be drawn according to current international methods for seed sampling recognised by the National Designated Authority.
- 6.3.1.3 The National Designated Authority may authorise non-official persons to carry out, under official supervision, seed sampling, fastening and labelling of containers on the conditions described in Appendix 8-B. If the National Designated Authority decides to use this procedure, it must define its scope (activities, species, seed categories and persons concerned). The National Designated Authority shall take the official check samples and satisfy itself of verifications and other requirements as set out in Appendix 8-B, and takes all measures which guarantee equivalent operations by an authorised person or by an official.

6.3.1.4 One part of each sample shall be available to meet the requirements of Rule 7 (Basic Seed) or Rule 8 (Certified Seed).

6.3.1.5 Another part of each sample shall be submitted to a laboratory for seed analysis.

6.3.2 *Seed analysis*

6.3.2.1 Seed analysis of the sample shall be made by the official laboratory designated by the National Designated Authority.

6.3.2.2 Seed analysis of samples of Certified Seed shall be conducted for analytical purity, germination and, at the discretion of the National Designated Authority, for the presence of specific seed-borne diseases; the analysis shall be made according to current international methods for seed testing recognised by the National Designated Authority. Seed analysis of samples of Basic Seed is made at the discretion of the National Designated Authority.

6.3.2.3 The National Designated Authority may authorise non-official laboratories to carry out, under official supervision, seed analysis in accordance with Appendix 8-B. If the National Designated Authority decides to use this procedure, it must define its scope (activities, species, seed categories and persons concerned). The National Designated Authority shall undertake the official check analysis and satisfy itself of verifications and other requirements as set out in Appendix 8-B, and takes all measures which guarantee equivalent operations by an authorised laboratory or by an official laboratory.

6.3.3 *Sample storage*

For Basic Seed a third part of each sample shall be stored for as long a period as possible for comparison in control plots with future samples of Basic Seed. For Certified Seed a third part of each sample shall be stored for at least one year.

6.3.4 *Control of the remaining Basic Seed*

Basic Seed held for use in subsequent years need not to be re-sampled but records must be available to the National Designated Authority to account fully for its use.

6.3.5 *Other controls as appropriate*

The National Designated Authority is entitled to make any other tests appropriate to the variety concerned and to obtain any information required for the certification of each seed lot.

6.4 *Issue of certificates*

The National Designated Authority may issue certificates for each lot of Basic Seed and of Certified Seed, approved under the Scheme, as follows:

- for Varietal Purity, according to the specimen shown in Appendix 5 A;
- for Analysis Results, according to the procedure outlined in Appendix 5 B.

These two Certificates shall carry the same OECD reference number (see Appendix 3).

6.5 *Certification of Pre-Basic seed*

- 6.5.1 On request, Pre-Basic Seed may be officially controlled and a special label provided for it (see Appendix 4). It is essential to identify the stage in the multiplication cycle which Pre-Basic Seed has reached and there shall be a statement of the number of generations by which the seed precedes Certified Seed.
- 6.5.2 The crop producing the seed shall have been officially inspected and accepted as at least of the standard required for a crop producing Basic Seed. All the requirements for the control of Basic Seed shall apply.
- 6.6 **Not finally certified seed**
 - 6.6.1 Seed which is to be exported from the country of production after field approval but before final certification as Basic Seed shall be identified in fastened containers by the special label described in Appendix 4. This label will show that the seed has met the requirements of paragraphs 6.1 to 6.2 above, but is not yet finally certified according to the requirements of paragraph 6.3. The sample will be stored for at least two years.
 - 6.6.2 The National Designated Authorities in the country of production and the country of final certification have to exchange relevant information. On request the country of production shall supply all relevant production data on the seed. The certifying country shall automatically supply information on quantities certified from a given not finally certified seed lot to the National Designated Authority of the country of production.
7. **Pre-control tests of the Basic seed preceding the production of certified seed**
 - 7.1 One part of each sample of the Basic Seed shall be grown by, or under the supervision of, the National Designated Authority, in pre-control plots not later than in the season immediately *following* the receipt of the sample. The number of plants in the pre-control plot shall be sufficient to make a reliable estimation of varietal identity and purity.
 - 7.2 In pre-control, such characteristics shall be checked as were used to comply with the requirements of *Rule 2*. The National Designated Authority is not entitled to certify seed derived from the lot concerned if the results from the plot tests show that varietal identity or purity has not been maintained.
 - 7.3 Another part of each sample of the Basic Seed shall be stored for as long a period as possible for comparison in control plots with future samples of Basic Seed and samples of Certified Seed.
8. **Post-control tests of Certified seed**
 - 8.1 The National Designated Authority will check varietal identity and purity by growing a proportion of the samples in *post-control* test conducted immediately or in the season following the receipt of the samples. The choice of samples to be controlled is at the discretion of the National Designated Authority. In post-control, such characteristics shall be checked as were used to comply with the requirements of *Rule 2*.
 - 8.2 A part of each sample drawn according to *Rule 6.3.1* shall be stored for at least two years.
 - 8.3 Subject to compliance with all prescribed conditions which may include payment of a stated fee, the owner of any seed certified in accordance with the Scheme shall be entitled to receive *from* the National Designated Authority, in respect of that lot, a statement of the results of any tests for

varietal identity and purity assessment provided the request is made within two years of the date of certification.

9. Seed lots and fastening of containers

9.1 *Lot Homogeneity*

Seed lots presented for sampling under these Rules must be as homogeneous as practicable. The *National* Designated Authority may refuse to certify any lot when there is evidence that it is not sufficiently homogeneous.

9.2 *Lot size*

9.2.1 For seeds the size of wheat, or larger, one seed lot shall not exceed 20 000 kg; for seeds smaller than wheat, one seed lot shall not exceed 10 000 kg. For seeds to be fastened as not finally certified seed, these maximum seed lot sizes do not apply.

9.2.2 Seed in excess of 20 000 kg or 10 000 kg as specified above shall be divided into lots no larger than 20 000 or 10 000 kg, each identified according to Rule 10.1 as a separate seed lot.

9.2.3 A tolerance of five per cent on these maxima is permissible.

9.3 *Fastening of containers*

9.3.1 The seed containers shall be fastened and the contents identified in accordance with Rules 9.3.2 and 10 at the time of sampling by the person taking the sample or under his supervision.

For not finally certified seed, the containers shall be fastened by the person normally taking samples for certification or under his supervision.

9.3.2 The seed containers shall be fastened in such a way that they cannot be opened without destroying that fastening or leaving traces showing that it has been possible to alter or change the contents of the container. The effectiveness of the fastening device must be ensured, either by incorporating the label provided for in paragraph 9.3.1 in the device or by use of a seal. Containers are exempted from this requirement if the fastening cannot be reused.

10. Identification of contents of seed containers

10.1 The contents of *each* container shall be indicated by:

10.1.1 a new label, showing no trace of previous use, issued by the National Designated Authority and which shall conform to the specification in Appendix 4. Tie-on labels are only allowed in conjunction with a seal. It must not be possible to reuse adhesive labels;

or

10.1.2 marking indelibly on the outside of the container all the information required to be printed on the label according to Appendix 4 (including an indication of the colour of the label) in a manner approved by the National Designated Authority.

10.2 A model of any label or any printed information must always be submitted to the OECD for prior approval.

10.3 A copy of *the* information required under this Rule may be enclosed in each container but must be clearly differentiated from the OECD label on the outside of the container.

10.4 There is no need to use the white label for Basic Seed if the Basic seed has been produced and is to be used in the same country and has affixed thereto a national label containing all necessary information.

11. Breaking bulks, re-processing, re-labelling and re-fastening

11.1 Certified Seed may be re-packaged in containers of any size but to retain its designation as Certified Seed the following requirements shall be met:

11.1.1 The original labels and seals shall be removed and all operations (which may include the further processing or any treatment of the seed) shall be conducted under the official supervision of the National Designated Authority. Rules 9 and 10 apply to the re-labelling and re-fastening;

11.1.2 At the discretion of the National Designated Authority a new reference number or the original reference number may be used on the new labels. If a new reference number is used, the National Designated Authority must keep a record of the original reference number. The name of this Authority and the information given on the original labels as to species, Variety denomination (or synonym) and category shall be included on the new labels;

11.1.3 Two or more lots of Certified Seed of one variety may be blended in accordance with the regulations of the National Designated Authority;

11.1.4 At the discretion of the National Designated Authority each seed lot may be sampled at the time of fastening.

11.2 Under the control exercised by the National Designated Authority, Certified Seed may be re-packaged in weights equal to or less than those specified in Appendix 6 and these may, on request, also be officially sealed. If they are not officially sealed, each individual package of seed shall bear no reference to the OECD Scheme other than "Packaged from OECD Certified Seed" and shall bear a code number that will permit the origin of the contents to be traced. Letters in this statement shall be all of the same size. No claim shall be made on the package which is contrary to the facts presented on the original certification label. The National Designated Authority must take all practicable steps to ensure that the identity of seed in small packages is maintained when certified lots are broken down.

11.3 Those responsible for packaging shall keep proper records of all such operations and of the intake and *disposal* of all seed produced under the Scheme. Such records shall be made available, on request, to the National Designated Authority.

Part II.

The Designation of Seed as Standard Seed

12. General

- 12.1 Standard Seed is a category of seed of varieties that are distinct, sufficiently uniform and stable and conform to the definition of a variety in Appendix 1.
- 12.2 Varieties that are eligible for Part I of this Scheme are automatically eligible for the production of *Standard Seed*.
- 12.3 Varieties other than those in 12.2 are eligible for the production of Standard Seed when the National *Designated Authority* is satisfied that it can make an adequate post-control test. The National Designated Authority will maintain a list of these varieties. Varieties shall not be maintained in the list if the conditions of acceptance are no longer fulfilled.
- 12.4 A supplier is entitled to designate seed as Standard Seed subject to notifying the National Designated *Authority* of his intention and under the control exercised by the National Designated Authority. The name of the supplier must appear on the label of such seed lots.
- 12.5 This supplier is responsible to the National Designated Authority for the varietal identity and purity of Standard Seed so designated and for the correctness of his statement to that effect.
- 12.6 The seed shall have been tested in a laboratory for analytical purity and germination, and if appropriate, *for* freedom from specific seed-borne diseases and the results of such tests must be available to the National Designated Authority.

13. Labelling and identification numbering

- 13.1 The *contents* of each container or package of Standard Seed shall be indicated by:
 - 13.1.1 a label which conforms to the specification in Appendix 4 and which is provided and attached by the supplier of the seed whose name appears on it;
 - or*
 - 13.1.2 marking indelibly on the outside of the container or package all the information required to be printed on the label according to Appendix 4. This shall be done by the supplier whose name is marked on the container or package, in a manner approved by the National Designated Authority.
- 13.2 The identification number of the lot shall be given and recorded by the supplier of the seed whose name appears on the label. He will keep this information available to the National Designated Authority.

14. Sampling

Under the control exercised by the National Designated Authority all seed lots will be sampled. *These* samples will be kept by the supplier whose name appears on the label for at least two years and made available to the National Designated Authority on request. The National Designated Authority will also officially draw random samples.

- 14.1 For seeds *the* size of wheat, or larger, one seed lot shall not exceed 20 000 kg; for seeds smaller than wheat, one seed lot shall not exceed 10 000 kg.
- 14.2 Seed in excess of 20 000 or 10 000 kg as specified above shall be divided into lots no larger than 20 000 or 10 000 kg, each identified according to Rule 13.1 as a separate seed lot.
- 14.3 A tolerance of five per cent on these maxima is permissible.

15. Records

Suppliers who affix Standard Seed labels to lots of Standard Seed must keep records of all such lots and these records must be made available to the National Designated Authority on request.

16. Control plots and laboratory tests

The National Designated Authority will check a proportion of the samples either in control plots or in the laboratory, or both, for varietal identity and purity and for the correctness of the results of the laboratory tests foreseen under Rule 12.6 above. The proportion checked shall be notified to the OECD.

Appendix 1

Definitions of Terms Used for the Purpose of the Scheme

1. **Vegetable seed**

Vegetable Seed is seed of all kinds of vegetables recognised as such by the National Designated Authorities concerned.
2. **National Designated Authority**

Authority designated by, and responsible to, the government of a participating country for the purpose of implementing these Rules and Regulations on its behalf.
3. **Maintainer**

The person or organisation responsible for the production or maintenance of a bred variety included in a national list of varieties eligible for certification under the OECD Scheme. The *maintainer* shall ensure that the variety remains true to type throughout its full life-span. Maintenance of a variety may be shared.
4. **Variety**

The international term variety denotes an assemblage of cultivated plants which is clearly distinguished by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical or others) and which, when reproduced (sexually or asexually), retains its distinguishing characters.
5. **Parental material**

The smallest unit *used* by the maintainer to maintain his variety from which all seed of the variety is derived through one or more generations.
6. **Pre-Basic seed**

Seed of generations *preceding* Basic Seed is known as Pre-Basic Seed and may be at any generation between the parental material and the Basic Seed.
7. **Basic seed**

Seed which has been produced under the responsibility of the maintainer according to the generally accepted practices for the maintenance of the variety and is intended for the production of Certified Seed. It must conform to the appropriate conditions in the Scheme and the fulfilment of these conditions must be confirmed by an official examination.
8. **Certified seed**

Seed which is the first generation of multiplication of Basic Seed of a variety and is intended for vegetable production. It must conform to the appropriate conditions in the Scheme.
9. **Standard seed**

Seed which is declared by the supplier as being true to the variety and of satisfactory varietal purity. It must conform to the appropriate conditions in the Scheme.

Appendix 2

Minimum Requirements for the Production of Basic and Certified Seed Under the Scheme

1. Health of seed used for seed crop production

The seed used for seed crop production should be as pest and disease free as possible. Its health should be checked before use and, if pest or disease organisms against which *there* is an effective seed treatment are present, that treatment should be applied.

2. Previous cropping

2.1 Seed production fields or glasshouses shall be sufficiently free from volunteer plants to avoid contamination of the crop seed by:

2.1.1 any seed which is difficult to remove from the crop seed;

2.1.2 cross-pollination;

2.1.3 seed-borne diseases transmitted from volunteer plants.

2.2 The previous cropping shall be such that there is the least possible risk of any soil-borne diseases being present which could subsequently be transmitted in the harvested seed.

2.3 If any previous crops could have made the fields or glasshouses unsuitable for the above reasons, *adequate* measures must be taken.

3. Isolation

3.1 Seed crops shall be isolated from all sources of pollen contamination and seed-borne diseases (*including* seed-borne virus infection and wild plants that might serve as a source of disease).

In *particular*, the distances must not be less than: (*Table on following page*)

	Minimum distances	
	Basic Seed	Certified Seed
1. When the foreign pollen can cause serious deterioration: in varieties of Beta and Brassica species	1 000 m	600 m
2. From other sources of foreign pollen affecting varieties of Beta and Brassica species	500 m	300 m
3. When the foreign pollen can cause serious deterioration in varieties of all other cross-pollinating species	500 m	300 m
4. From other sources of foreign pollen affecting varieties of all other cross-pollinating species	300 m	100 m

3.2 The distances apply both to other seed crops and to plants or crops grown for vegetable production flowering at the same time as the seed crop. They can be disregarded when there is sufficient protection from undesirable pollen sources and seed-borne diseases (e.g. crops produced in aphid-proof glasshouses).

4. Field inspection

- 4.1 Each crop of Basic Seed shall be inspected at least once at an appropriate stage or stages of *growth* on behalf of the National Designated Authority by inspectors who are specially trained and, in their inspections, responsible only to the National Designated Authority.
- 4.2 Each crop of Certified Seed shall be inspected under the responsibility of the person responsible for *the* production of Certified Seed. In case of field inspection performed by authorised inspectors (Appendix 8-A), at least 20 per cent of the crops of Certified Seed of each species shall be inspected by an official inspector.
- 4.3 The field inspector shall check that all the minimum requirements laid down in this Appendix have *been* satisfied.
- 4.4 The crop must be *satisfactory* as regards to varietal identity and purity.
- 4.5 The presence of any seed-borne diseases shall be at the lowest possible level.

Appendix 3

Reference Numbers for Certificates and Seed Lots

1. In international trade it is desirable that reference numbers should be of a uniform pattern so as to be easily identified.
2. Employing the ISO-3166-1 three-letter code shall denote the country of certification. Where there is more than one National Designated Authority in the country, appropriate initial letters should be added, although it is then necessary to take care that this does not conflict with the above-mentioned code.
3. The remainder of the reference number is used to distinguish the seed lot from others harvested in the same country. It is usually convenient to try to arrange that all reference numbers be composed of the same number of digits. Estimating, in advance, how many lots of seed are likely to be certified and beginning with the required number of noughts can do this. Thus, if the number of certificates to be issued is unlikely to exceed 9 999, the first would be given the number 0001, the tenth would be 0010 and so on. Care must be taken that there is no confusion between reference numbers issued for different seed lots in different years (a code letter can be used to indicate harvest year).

Appendix 4

Specifications for the OECD Label or Marking of Seed Containers

1. Description

1.1 **Type:** Labels may be *either* adhesive *or* non-adhesive. The information may be printed on one side only or on both sides.

1.2 **Shape:** Labels shall be rectangular.

1.3 **Colour:** The colours of the labels shall be:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| – Pre-Basic Seed | White with diagonal violet stripe |
| – Basic Seed | White |
| – Certified Seed
(including Certified seed in "small packages") | Blue |
| – Not Finally Certified Seed | Grey |
| – Standard Seed | Dark yellow |

One end of the label shall be overprinted black for a minimum distance of 3 cm or one quarter of the label, whichever is less, leaving the rest of the label coloured.

1.4 **Material:** The material used must be strong enough to prevent damage in ordinary usage.

2. Reference to the OECD Scheme

Reference to the OECD Scheme shall be printed in English and in French within the black portion of the label or on the outside of the seed container (see Rule 10.1.2). This shall read: "OECD Seed Scheme" and "Système de l'OCDE pour les Semences".

3. Information on the label

3.1 **Prescribed information:**

The following information shall be printed in black type on the coloured portion of the label (white, blue, grey or dark yellow):

3.1.1 *Pre-Basic seed*

- Name and address of National Designated Authority:
- Species: (Latin name)
- Common name:
- Variety denomination (or synonym):
- Pre-Basic Seed
- Lot Reference number: (see Appendix 3)
- Number of generations by which the seed precedes Certified Seed:

3.1.2 *Basic seed*

- Name and address of National Designated Authority:
- Species: (Latin name)
- Common name
- Variety denomination (or synonym)¹³
- Basic Seed
- Lot Reference number: (see Appendix 3)
- Country of Production: (if the seed has been previously labelled as Not finally certified seed)

On the label for *not finally certified seed* shall appear *the* statement:

- "Not Finally Certified Seed".

3.1.3 *Certified seed*

- Name and address of National Designated Authority:
- Species: (Latin name)
- Common name:
- Variety denomination (or synonym):
- Certified Seed
- Lot Reference number: (see Appendix 3)
- Country of Production: (if the seed has been previously labelled as Not finally certified seed)

On the label for *not finally certified seed* shall appear the statement:

- "Not Finally Certified Seed"

3.1.4 *Certified seed in "Small Packages" which are not officially sealed (See Rule 11.2 and Appendix 6):*

- Common name of vegetable:
- Variety denomination (or synonym):
- Name and address of packager:
- The following statement: "Packaged from OECD Certified Seed"
- Code number:

¹³ If, for reasons of commercial secrecy, the producer of the Basic Seed does not wish the Variety denomination (or synonym) to be included on the label, a code number may be used. The National Designated Authority will record the Variety denomination (or synonym) for each code number.

3.1.5 *Standard seed*

- Common name:
- Variety denomination (or synonym):
- Standard Seed
- Identification number of the lot:
- Name and address of the person or firm responsible for the lot:
- The following statement: "Seed subject only to random post-control"

3.2 The space allowed and the size of the lettering shall be sufficient to ensure that the label is easily read.

3.3 Labels described under 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 will be issued by the National Designated Authority. Labels described under 3.1.4 may be issued by the packager. Those described under 3.1.5 will be issued by the seed supplier.

3.4 When the information is marked indelibly on the container, the layout of the information and the area marked shall conform as closely as possible to a normal label.

3.5 *Additional information*

3.5.1 Any additional information shall be strictly factual and not of an advertising nature.

3.5.2 For Standard Seeds of varieties that are well known at the introduction of the Schemes, a selection name may be mentioned. There must be no reference to the particular properties of the selection.

3.5.3 Non-official Additional Information:

At the discretion of the National Designated Authority in the producing country, barcodes can be placed at the periphery of the official label, within a non-official space of not more than 20 per cent of the total area of the label, to be defined by a different colour background and bearing the title "Information contained within this space is non-official, non-endorsed and not verified by the National Designated Authority."

4. **Languages**

All information shall be given in either English or French except reference to the Scheme that must be in both English and French as specified in paragraph 2 above. Translations into any other language may be added if thought desirable.

Appendix 5

Specimen Certificate and Analysis Results

A) Specimen Certificate

Certificates must contain all the information outlined below, but the exact arrangement of the text is at the discretion of the National Designated Authority.

**Certificate Issued under the OECD Scheme
for the Control of Vegetable Seed
Moving in International Trade**

Name of National Designated Authority issuing the Certificate:

Lot Reference Number:

Species:

Variety: (denomination or synonym):

Statement of re-packing and re-labelling: (if applicable)

Number of containers and declared weight of lot:

“The seed lot bearing this Reference Number has been produced in accordance with the OECD Vegetable Seed Scheme and is approved / provisionally approved as:¹⁴

- Pre-Basic Seed (White label with diagonal violet stripe);
- Basic Seed (White label / Grey label);
- Certified Seed (Blue label / Grey label).”

Signature (or an equivalent electronic authorisation):

Place and Date:

¹⁴ Delete as necessary.

B) Analysis Results

The results of the laboratory analyses should, whenever possible, be given on the Orange International Seed Lot Certificate issued under the Rules of ISTA.

Those countries that do not wish to use this certificate as issued by the Association may use it as a model for reporting the results of laboratory analyses as required in the Rules and Regulations of the Scheme. Specimen copy may be obtained from:

International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
Zürichstrasse 50
8303 Bassersdorf,
Switzerland
Phone: +41 1 838 60 00
Fax: +41 1 838 60 01
E-mail: ista.office@ista.ch

The certificate issued by ISTA may be used only by those countries which have full authority to do so from the Association. Other countries using this certificate as a model for the presentation of results must ensure that there is no implication that they are issuing an Orange Certificate. For instance, reference to ISTA must not be made and the certificate should not be on orange paper.

Appendix 6

Maximum Weights of "Small Packages"
of Vegetable Certified Seed

1.	<i>Leguminous species</i>	—	5 kg
	<i>Zea mays</i> (L.)	Sweet corn and popcorn	5 kg
2.	<i>Allium cepa</i> (L.)	Onion	500 g
	<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i> (L.) Hoffm.	Chervil	500 g
	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> (L.)	Asparagus	500 g
	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> (L.) var <i>cicla</i> (L.) Ulrich	Spinach beet	500 g
	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> (L.) var. <i>rubra</i> (L.)	Red beet	500 g
	<i>Brassica rapa</i> (L.) var. <i>rapa</i> (L.)Thell	Turnip	500 g
	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thumb) Mansf.	Watermelon	500 g
	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne	Pumpkin	500 g
	<i>Daucus carota</i> (L.) ss. <i>Sativus</i> (Hoffm.) Hayek	Carrot	500 g
	<i>Lepidium sativum</i> (L.)	Common Cress	500 g
	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> (L.)	Radish	500 g
	<i>Scorzonera hispanica</i> (L.)	Scorzonera or Black Salsify	500 g
	<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> (L.)	Spinach	500 g
	<i>Valerianella locusta</i> (L.) Laterrade	Corn Salad	500 g
3.	All other kinds of vegetables		100 g

Appendix 7

Countries Eligible for Certification or Control of Vegetable Seed

AUSTRALIA	C(80)40	27/02/80
AUSTRIA	C(72)55	28/02/72
BELGIUM	C(87)58/Final	16/02/88
BOLIVIA	C(96)169/Final	16/12/96
BRAZIL	C(99)174/Final	10/12/99
CYPRUS	C(72)217	09/11/72
CZECH REPUBLIC	C(94)25/Final	02/06/94
DENMARK	C(85)146	10/05/85
EGYPT	C(98)178/Final	01/12/98
ESTONIA	C(97)187/Final	23/10/97
FINLAND	C(71)56	02/08/71
FRANCE	C(73)62	27/03/73
GERMANY	C(75)190	05/11/75
ICELAND	*	
INDIA	C(2008)150	23/10/08
ISRAEL	C(74)28	07/03/74
ITALY	C(79)190	15/10/79
MEXICO	C(2001)288	22/01/02
MOLDOVA	C(2008)151	23/10/08
MOROCCO	C(88)196/Final	26/01/89
NETHERLANDS	C(2008)153	16/10/08
PORTUGAL	C(73)173	19/11/73
ROMANIA	C(74)27	07/03/74
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	C(2001)266	29/11/01
SERBIA	C(2001)265	29/11/01
TURKEY	C(2007)122	11/11/07
SOUTH AFRICA	C(72)216	11/10/72
SWEDEN	C(76)212	02/12/76
SWITZERLAND	C(93)183/Final	08/02/94
SLOVAKIA	C(2001)101	22/06/01
UGANDA	C(2004)210	24/01/05
UNITED KINGDOM	C(71)155	02/08/71

* OECD Member country participating without official notification.

Appendix 8

Conditions for Operating Activities of the Seed Certification Process by Authorised Persons and Laboratories under Official Supervision

- A) Field Inspection of Seed Crops by Authorised Inspectors under Official Supervision**
1. In the case of production of seed eligible for certification, the National Designated Authority may, under official supervision, authorise non-official inspectors to operate field *inspections*. These inspections will be equivalent to the official inspections on the conditions listed below.¹⁵
 2. In the case of authorised inspectors, they shall have the necessary qualifications, either through being trained in the same way as official inspectors, or alternatively their competence *shall* have been confirmed in official examinations. Authorised inspectors shall be sworn in or sign a statement of commitment to the rules governing official inspections.
 3. Where crops are inspected by authorised inspectors, a proportion of these crops must be check inspected by official inspectors. The level of check inspections must be set by the National Designated Authority to adequately assess the performance of the authorised inspectors. That proportion shall be at least 20 per cent for vegetable species.
 4. National Designated Authorities shall determine the penalties applicable to infringements of the rules governing examination under official supervision. The penalties they provide for must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Penalties may include the withdrawal of recognition of authorised inspectors who are found guilty of deliberately or negligently contravening the rules governing official examinations. Any certification of the seed examined shall be annulled in the event of such contravention unless it can be shown that such seed still meets all relevant requirements.
- B) Seed Sampling (including Fastening and Labelling of containers) and Seed Analysis by Authorised persons or laboratories under Official Supervision**
1. **Principles**
 - 1.1 The National *Designated* Authority may authorise persons who are not under its direct and exclusive authority to draw, under official supervision, samples under the Schemes (these persons are hereafter called “seed samplers”). Laboratories may also be authorised to carry out seed analysis as required under the Schemes.
 - 1.2 Sampling, fastening and labelling of seed containers may be entrusted to authorised persons. *The* conditions set out below also apply to Articles dealing

¹⁵ Field inspection of seed crops by authorised inspectors under official supervision is currently not possible for Pre-basic and Basic crops within the EU. Crops produced outside the European Union of Pre-basic and Basic seed for export to the European Union shall be officially inspected in the field to meet the EC Rules and Standards. For rules to export seed to the European, please refer to: ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_propagation_material/equivalence_requirements_non-eu/index_en.htm - and in particular Council Decision 2003/17/EC.

with seed sampling, seed containers fastening and labelling and seed analysis as provided by the Rules and Regulations of the Schemes.

- 1.3 All Scheme Rules and Regulations including obligation of conformity or strict conformity *shall* be considered satisfied by countries implementing authorisation procedures in the course of certification.
- 1.4 National Designated Authorities cannot deny approval to multiply seed outside the country of *origin* solely on the grounds that an authorisation was granted to a non-official person or laboratory in the country where seed is intended to be multiplied.

2. Scope

The authorisation may apply to seed certification of all genera and species of vegetables admitted to *the* official national List, within the scope defined by the National Designated Authority: activities, species, seed categories, persons, seed companies and laboratories.

3. Seed lot sampling

3.1 *Authorised seed samplers*

- 3.1.1 Seed sampling shall be carried out by samplers who have been authorised for that purpose by the National Designated Authority, under the conditions set out in sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.5.
- 3.1.2 Seed samplers shall have the necessary technical qualifications obtained in training courses organised under conditions applicable to official seed samplers and confirmed by official examinations.
- 3.1.3 They shall carry out seed sampling in accordance with current international methods recognised by the National Designated Authority.
- 3.1.4 Seed sampling premises and equipment must be officially recognised to be satisfactory for the purpose by the National Designated Authority, within the scope of the authorisation.
- 3.1.5 Seed samplers shall be:
 - a) independent natural persons, or
 - b) persons employed by natural or legal persons whose activities do not involve seed production, seed growing, seed processing or seed trade, or
 - c) persons employed by natural or legal persons whose activities involve seed production, seed growing, seed processing or seed trade.

In the case referred to in point (c), a seed sampler may carry out seed sampling only on seed lots produced on behalf of his employer, unless it has been otherwise agreed between his employer, the applicant for certification and the National Designated Authority.

3.2 *Official supervision*

- 3.2.1 The performance of seed samplers shall be subject to proper supervision by the National Designated Authority and shall include check sampling or process monitoring as appropriate. In case of automatic sampling, supervision shall include appropriate monitoring by the National Designated Authority with regular audits of expertise and implementation. Audits shall be made on-site while sampling is in progress.

- 3.2.2 A proportion of the seed lots entered for the official certification shall be check-sampled by official seed samplers. That proportion shall in principle be as evenly spread as possibly over natural and legal persons entering seed for certification, but may also be orientated to eliminate specific doubt. That proportion shall be at least five per cent. Check sampling shall not apply to seed lots that have been sampled by automatic samplers.

4. Seed analysis

4.1 *Authorised laboratories*

- 4.1.1 Seed testing shall be carried out by seed testing laboratories which have been authorised for that purpose by the National Designated Authority under the conditions set out in sections 4.1.2 to 4.1.5.
- 4.1.2 The laboratory shall be maintained in premises and with equipment officially considered by the National Designated Authority to be satisfactory for the purpose of seed testing, within the scope of the authorisation.
- 4.1.3 The laboratory shall have a seed analyst-in-charge who has direct responsibility for the technical operations of the laboratory and has the necessary qualifications for technical management of a seed testing laboratory. Its seed analysts shall have the necessary technical qualifications obtained in training courses organised under conditions applicable to official seed analysts and confirmed by official examinations.
- 4.1.4 The laboratory shall carry out seed testing in accordance with current international methods recognised by the National Designated Authority.
- 4.1.5 The laboratory shall be:
- a) an independent laboratory, or
 - b) a laboratory belonging to a seed company.

In the case referred to in point (b), the laboratory may carry out seed testing only on seed lots produced on behalf of the seed company to which it belongs, unless it has been otherwise agreed between the seed company, the applicant for certification and the National Designated Authority.

4.2 *Official supervision*

- 4.2.1 The laboratory's performance of seed testing shall be subject to proper supervision by the National Designated Authority. Supervision shall include check-analysis and regular audits of expertise, implementation, processing of results and response to non-conformities.
- 4.2.2 A proportion of the seed lots entered for the official certification shall be check-tested by official seed testing. That proportion shall in principle be as evenly spread as possible over natural and legal persons entering seed for certification but may also be altered to eliminate specific doubts. That proportion shall be at least five per cent.
- 4.2.3 The National Designated Authority shall compare the results of seed samples tested officially with those of the same seed lot tested under official supervision. The comparison shall include at least analytical purity and germination test results.

Appendix 9

Procedure for the Extension of the Scheme to include, for the Purposes of Field Inspection, Varieties under Examination for Registration on a National List

1. With regard to a variety being examined for admission to a national list, the National Designated Authority of the country of seed multiplication may undertake field inspection under the following conditions:
 - a) At the express request of the breeder of the variety, when multiplication takes place in the examining country, and
 - b) Following a request for assistance from the National Designated Authority of the examining country when multiplication takes place outside that country.

When multiplication takes place in the examining country [case 1(a) above], the field inspection shall be conducted by the National Designated Authority on the same basis as for registered varieties. The Authority shall verify the varietal identity of the Pre-basic or Basic seed used for multiplication; varietal purity shall be verified during the field inspection using the technical specifications available; final certification shall be given, where appropriate, once the variety has been registered on the national list.

When multiplication takes place outside the examining country [case 1(b) above], the rules set out in paragraphs 2 to 6 shall apply.

2. The request for assistance shall be confined to field inspection with a view to verifying compliance with the rules on seed production, as required under the OECD Schemes.
3. Responsibility for verifying the varietal identity of Pre-basic or Basic seed used for multiplication shall lie with the National Designated Authority of the country in which the tests for distinctness, uniformity and stability of the variety are conducted.
4. During field inspections, varietal purity shall be verified using a provisional description of the variety issued from the tests for distinctness, uniformity and stability, provided by the National Designated Authority of the examining country.
5. Final certification shall be given under the responsibility of the examining country once the variety has been registered on its national list.
6. On the decision of the National Designated Authority of the examining country, in agreement with the maintainer, the seed produced in the country of multiplication shall be either:
 - Sent to the examining country for the purpose of final certification. In this case the seed shall be given a grey label in compliance with the OECD Rules, indicating the provisional denomination of that variety and bearing the statement “Not Finally Certified Seed - Variety Still Under Registration Testing”;or

- Finally certified by the National Designated Authority of the country of multiplication once the variety has been registered, in compliance with OECD Rules, the official name being that expressly indicated by the National Designated Authority of the registering country.
7. In the case of hybrid varieties the conditions in paragraphs 1 to 6 also apply to their parental components.