

THE CANADIAN SEED GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association is designated by the Canada Seeds Act and Regulations (legislation of the parliament of Canada) as the official pedigree agency responsible for prescribing genetic crop standards and issuing crop certificates for Canadian produced pedigreed crops with the exception of potatoes.

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association came into being in 1904. The Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production is the manual prepared by the Association to provide the guidelines for pedigreed crop production in Canada. It represents the coordinated effort of federal, provincial and university research and regulatory specialists of the seed trade assisted by the practical experience of seed growers.

The relationship between the CSGA and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is unique and has progressed over the years on an almost partnership basis to improve the usage of pedigreed seed in Canada. The Canada Seeds Act governs the mechanical purity, germination, and quality of seed as well as the grading and labeling of seed. Only seed produced from crops covered by a CSGA crop certificate may be graded as pedigreed seed. The inspection staff of the CFIA provides the crop inspection service and reports to the CSGA on the genetic purity, isolation and weed condition of crops. The CSGA makes the decision on the basis of the crop report to grant a pedigreed crop certificate.

The affairs of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association are conducted by a President and a twenty-four-member Board of Directors. Twelve are active seed growers elected by the general membership and nine are appointed by the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture. The Head Office of the Association is in Ottawa, Ontario, under the supervision of an Executive Director.

Provision is made for provincial or regional organizations affiliated with the CSGA. These provincial organizations are not authorized to issue crop certificates or in any way act as a crop pedigree agency. They act as a liaison between the grower and the national organization and conduct promotional and extension programs.

The CSGA has been a member of AOSCA and previously the International Crop Improvement Association since inception.

THE NEW ZEALAND SEEDS AUTHORITY

The New Zealand Seeds Authority (NZSA) is an independent industry organisation which aims to ensure New Zealand's seed certification schemes are professionally and effectively managed through effective policy and governance. The NZSA has an executive of seven members, three from Herbage Seed Section of Federated Farmers, two from the NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association, one from the Seed Processors Association and one from the NZ Plant Breeders and Researchers Association. It also has representation co-opted in from the Ministry of Primary Industries, AsureQuality Ltd, AgResearch, the Foundation for Arable Research and ISTA . The NZSA is the national delegated authority for the AOSCA seed certification scheme in New Zealand.

New Zealand also operates a domestic seed varietal certification scheme that incorporates OECD varietal seed certification rules. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is the national delegated authority for OECD varietal seed certification schemes in New Zealand but also is responsible for the management of the domestic scheme so that eligible varieties can be moved between the domestic and OECD schemes in response to market requirements. The NZSA and MPI have a formal collaboration agreement to ensure the operation of seed certification in New Zealand works beneficially for both parties. New Zealand does not have any Acts governing the certification of seed or any seed quality standard. The standards applied are those that the New Zealand seed industry have elected to use.

The NZSA does not carry out any seed certification activities. Instead, it contracts AsureQuality NZ Ltd, an accredited independent verification authority, to operate all the seed certification schemes in New Zealand, including AOSCA.

AsureQuality roles include:

- Listing new or existing varieties into the NZ, OECD and AOSCA schemes.
- Approving grower crop applications
- Carrying out crop inspections
- Approving, printing and distributing labels
- Official purity and germination seed testing
- Auditing of all MPI approved organisations involved in seed certification
- Control plot testing

75% of seed grown in New Zealand is certified with the main species being forage and amenity grasses and legumes. The majority of seed grown in New Zealand is for export, supplying customers in over eighty different countries.