

INSPECTION PROCEDURE

Checking information

1. Prior to taking seed samples, the Inspector should verify the information on the label to ensure that the seed is labeled as required under the Act in regard to the following.
 - a. Kind
 - b. Variety
 - c. Lot number
 - d. Date of test
 - e. Pure seed
 - f. Inert matter
 - g. Other crop seed
 - h. Weed seed
 - i. Germination
 - j. Net content
 - k. Seller's name and address
 1. If treated, then, either of the following two statements should appear on the label :
 - i. Do not use for food, feed or oil purposes
 - ii. Poison

If the content of the container is 250 grams or less, items [e] to [i] may be replaced by the following statement :

“The seed in this container conforms to the minimum limits of germination and purity prescribed under the Act”.

The inspector should check if the information on label in regard to germination and pure seed is in conformity with the minimum limits prescribed (**Table-1**).

2. In the case of certified seed lot(s), the Inspector should check the information on the certification tag in regard to the following :
 - a. Name and address of the Certification Agency;
 - b. Kind and variety of the seed;
 - c. Lot number or other mark of the seed;
 - d. Name & address of the certified seed producer;
 - e. Date of issue of the certificate and its validity;
 - f. The sign to designate certified seed;
 - g. The word denoting the class designation of the seed;
 - h. The period during which the seed shall be used for sowing;

- i. Condition that the use of seed after the expiry of the validity period by any person is entirely at his risk and that the holder of the certificate shall not be responsible to the buyer for any damage to the seed; and
- j. Condition that no one should purchase the seed if the seal or the certification tag has been tampered with.

The Inspector should also check if the colour of the certification tag(s) is as prescribed in the Rules and whether the tags on seed containers appear genuine and intact.

In the case of certified seed lot(s) the Inspector should also determine whether the contents of the label are in conformity with the seed standards prescribed in the Minimum Seed Certification Standards (**Table-1**). He should also check whether revalidation has been done, in case the validity period indicated on the tag has expired. In case of doubt, relevant records should be examined.

Steps to be followed

- 3.a. Give notice in writing in **Form-VI** of the Rules; prepare in duplicate and give original copy to the person from whose seed lot sample is to be drawn and obtain acknowledgement on the office copy;b. As far as possible call not less than two witnesses;
- c. Examine the information on the label and determine whether it violets the provisions of the Act and the Rules. In case violation is found take appropriate action as indicated in **para-4** below.
- d. Draw, mix, divide and prepare samples for despatch;
- e. If cost of seed is demanded confirm that the cost is at the rate at which that seed is normally sold to the public. Then pay the seed cost and fill in the remainder of the **form-VIII** of the Rules.
- f. Prepare form-V of the Rules in quinplicate and send original copy to the Analyst along with sample, second copy to the Analyst by post / hand along with a specimen impression of the seal used for sealing the sample, give the third copy to the person from whose seed lot sample is drawn, retain the fourth copy along with file sample and the fifth copy as office copy.
- g. Record detailed information in **Form-V** of the Rules and detach five labels from each lot and replace them by replacement labels duly authenticated by the Department of Agriculture. Alternatively if five spare labels identical to those on the seed containers under sampling are available with the person from whose seed lots sample is drawn obtain them from the person and affix one to each of the five copies of **Form-V**.
- h. Prepare **Form-VIII** in duplicate, obtain the signatures of the witnesses, hand over the original copy to the seller and retain the second as office copy.

Violations

4.a. Rectifiable violations

- i. The first consideration is to establish that the seed is labeled in accordance with the Act and the Rules. The Inspector should be alert to possible labeling violations that are detectable prior to taking samples;
- ii. The Inspector can determine the deficiencies in label information, by comparing the results reported by the laboratory with those appearing on the label. When making such comparison apply, if necessary, the prescribed tolerance levels(**Appendix-IV**). If the deficiency is such that it can be removed or rectified, the Inspector may issue a stop sale order until the correction is carried out.

- iii. For certified seed, if the seed is being sold after the expiry of the validity period recorded on the certification tag, the Inspector may issue a stop sale order and direct the seller to get the seed revalidated by the certification agency. If validation by the certification agency reveals that the seed is not conforming to the minimum seed certification standards prescribed for the crop concerned the seller may be advised that the certification tags should be removed and relabelling done provided the seed is conforming at least to the minimum limits of germination and purity prescribed for mere labeling.

b. Procedure for stopping sale

- i. Examine any record, register, document or any other material object;
- ii. If the offence is such that the defect may be removed by the possessor of the seed, order in writing in **Form-III** of the Rules the possessor of the seed not to dispose of any part of the seed lot for a period not exceeding thirty days; prepare in triplicate, give original copy to the person whose seed lot is under inspection, send the second copy to the Director of Agriculture or to such authority as may be directed in this regard and obtain acknowledgement on the Inspector's office copy.
- iii. During the period to which the stop sale order relates, the possessor of the seed may correct the defect(s) and intimate such action to the Inspector who on being satisfied about the removal of the defect(s) shall revoke the stop sale order as in **Annexure-I** to be prepared and distributed in the same manner as the stop sale order.
- iv. Recommend prosecution if labeler is a persistent violator; issue **Form-IV** in quadruplicate, original copy to the seller, second copy to the magistrate, third copy to the Director of Agriculture or to such authority as may be directed in this regard and fourth as office copy; seize seed and records, inform a magistrate and take his orders for the custody there of and initiate further action.

c. Non-rectifiable violations

The Inspector can determine this type of violation by comparing the results of the laboratory test with those appearing on the label. When making such a comparison apply if necessary the prescribed tolerance levels (**Appendix-IV**).

d. Procedure

- i. Recommended prosecution. Order in writing in **Form-IV** of the Rules. Seize the seed lot and records, inform a magistrate and take his orders as to the custody here of and initiate further action.
- ii. If, after seizure of the stock, records etc. it is ascertained that the seed does not contravene any of the provisions of the Act, revoke the seizure order by issue of **Annexure-II** to be prepared and distributed in the same manner as the seizure order.

Inspector's records

1. Maintain a record of all inspections made and action taken in the performance of duties including taking of samples and seizure of stocks. Submit copies of such records to the Director of Agriculture or to such authority as may be directed in this regard.

Safety

2. Seed inspection is not without hazards and the following precautions should be observed :

- a. Be cautious when attempting to climb high piles of seed bags.
- b. Be cautious when working around bags piled in such a manner that they might fall.
- c. Be careful in moving piles of bags; preferably, ask the seeds man to move them.

- d. Be cautious when working in places where lighting is inadequate.
- e. Exercise care in handling treated seed.
- f. Do not enter warehouses, which are under fumigation.