



## SUID-AFRIKAANSE NASIONALE SAADORGANISASIE

## SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SEED ORGANIZATION

NPC Reg. No 1989/003392/08

29 March 2019

**TO ALL SANSOR MEMBERS INVOLVED IN CERTIFICATION, SEED TESTING LABORATORIES, AND SANSOR AUTHORIZED SAMPLERS AND INSPECTORS**

### CIRCULAR

#### INFORMATION ON SEED ANALYSIS REPORTS FOR CERTIFICATION PURPOSES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUING OF CERTIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Issuing Certificates, whether for National Certification by SANSOR or for OECD Certification by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for confirming the certification of a specific seed lot, is subject to compliance with specific requirements. The general requirements are specified in the South African Seed Certification Scheme (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") and that of each crop in the relevant Annexure in the Scheme.

When SANSOR receives an application for the issuing of a Certificate, it is checked whether all the certification requirements are met. Therefore, if all the information required to determine whether these requirements are met is not submitted to SANSOR, the final Certificate cannot be issued.

**PLEASE NOTE that a seed lot has not been certified before the relevant Certificate has been issued by SANSOR or by DAFF.** Refer to Regulation 26. (1) of the Plant Improvement Act, 1976 (Act 53 of 1976), hereinafter referred to as "the Act", which reads as follows:

#### ***Requirements for seed which is certified***

*26.(1) Seed which has been certified may, without an authority referred to in section 13 of the Act, be sold with an indication that it has been thus certified if -*

- (a) such seed complies with the requirements for such seed in the scheme concerned; and*
- (b) the seller of such seed is in possession of documentary evidence substantiating the fact that such seed has been thus certified.*

The documentary evidence referred to in the above-mentioned Regulation is the Certificate. Therefore, if seed is sold, including the export of seed, and where certification labels are attached to the containers, whether National or OECD Certification labels of any generation, and the seller is not in possession of such Certificate, whether or not the seed otherwise meets all the other Scheme requirements, it is a violation of the law and is punishable by a fine and / or imprisonment.

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#### DIRECTORS

JJ Odendaal (Chairman), RH Roselt (V-C), B Lever, DE Malan, PR Smit, L Chetty, SM Hildebrand

The form for the "Application for the issuing of a Certificate" does not make provision for all the information required. This application must, however, be accompanied by a Report of Test, Examination and Analysis of Seed (Analysis Report), issued by a Seed Testing Laboratory registered under the provisions of the Act. Sampling and all analysis and must be done in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed by the International Seed Test Association (ISTA) in the latest edition of the ISTA Rules.

Specific information on the seed lot sampled and the results obtained must be provided on the Analysis Report. For certification purposes the Analysis Report should contain at least the following details:

- (i) The date on which a sample of the seed concerned was received.
- (ii) The name and authorization number of the authorized sampler who took the sample concerned.
- (iii) The type of seed of the sample concerned as indicated on the containers or labels attached to the containers from which the samples were taken;
- (iv) The variety name of the seed concerned as indicated on the containers or labels attached to the containers from which the samples were taken;
- (v) The number of containers and weight of the seed lot concerned from which the sample was taken;
- (vi) The serial numbers of the labels attached to the containers;
- (vii) The serial numbers of the seals attached to the containers;
- (viii) The weight of the sample submitted (grams);
- (ix) The name and address of the owner of the seed lot concerned;
- (x) The reference number assigned to the seed lot by the owner of the seed, the first part of which must contain the code number of the unit on which the seed was produced, as registered with the authority;
- (xi) The Certificate number;
- (xii) The laboratory reference number;
- (xiii) The respective dates on which the testing, examination or analysis of the particular sample commenced and was completed; and
- (xiv) The results of the tests, examinations or analysis performed on the particular sample and of which the applicable details are indicated.

Analysis must be done of all the physical requirements set out in Section 6 of the Annexure of the relevant crop in the Scheme, and the results obtained on the Analysis Report. For example –

- If a maximum moisture content is required, moisture tests must be performed and indicated on the Analysis Report.
- If there may be no more than 1 wild oat seed in 400 g of seed, an other seed determination should be done on 400 g of seed and indicated on the analysis report: "An other seed determination was done on a ..... gram seed sample and ..... *Avena fatua* was found"- this applies to all small grains (wheat, oats, barley, rye and triticale).
- If there may be not more than 0.2% sclerotia of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, a purity analysis of a 1,000 gram sample should be performed and results indicated as follows on the Analysis Report: "A purity analysis was done on a ..... gram sample and .....% sclerotia of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* was found" – this applies to soybeans, sunflowers, beans, peas, radishes and oilseed rape. The procedure for determining the percentage of sclerotia is attached, it can also be applied in the same way to the other crops.

**PLEASE NOTE** that when the Application for issuing of a Certificate is submitted to SANSOR, the date the analysis are completed on the sample of the seed lot concerned, and of which the results are indicated on the relevant accompanying Analysis Report, may not exceed six months from the date of Application. This means that the Application must reach SANSOR no later than 6 (six) months after the analysis has been completed. The date on which the Analysis Report is issued is not taken into account.

**IMPORTANT: TAKE FURTHER NOTE** that only Seed Lot Analysis Reports (ISTA equivalent is the ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificate (OIC)) will be accepted by SANSOR for certification purposes. This means that Seed Sample Analysis Reports (ISTA equivalent is the ISTA Blue International Seed Sample Certificate (BIC)) are not suitable for certification purposes.

The statements by most seed testing laboratories in South Africa on their Analysis Reports that the results relate only to the seed sample submitted and not necessarily to the seed lot, therefore make these Analysis Reports unacceptable for certification purposes. The fact that samples for certification purposes may only be taken by trained SANSOR Authorized Samplers implies that the submitted samples are representative of the seed lot and thus may a Seed Lot Analysis Report be issued. We therefore recommend that (for certification purposes) the statement should read: "Seed sampled and tested according to the ISTA Rules"

Most of the information, which must be indicated on the Analysis Reports not specific to the analysis, must be provided by the samplers. The samplers must therefore ensure that the sampling labels are completed completely and correctly - if the sampling labels provided by SANSOR are used, most of the required information could be inserted on the label in the relevant fields. It is extremely important that the samplers should be authorized by SANSOR and that the sampler name and authorization number should be indicated on the label.

Samplers taking samples for certification purposes are legally liable in his/her personal capacity and if false information, or information not confirmed personally by the sampler, is entered on the label and sampling form, or if the sample was not taken in the prescribed manner, his/her authorization may be compromised. If these actions would lead to claims, then the sampler would be held personally liable for his/her actions.

A list of SANSOR Authorized Samplers will be provided to all registered seed testing laboratories by separate letter.

Regards

  
**E Goldschagg**  
**Technical Manager**  
**SANSOR**