



SUID-AFRIKAANSE NASIONALE SAADORGANISASIE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SEED ORGANIZATION

NPC Reg. No 1989/003392/08

15 November 2021

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

NOTICE

NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: LABELLING – NOVEMBER 2021

Please take note that the revised South African Seed Certification Scheme, that substitutes the previous Scheme in its entirety, has been published in the Government Gazette of 6 August 2021, as Government Notice No. 692 of 6 August 2021, and is therefore now valid. The new Scheme can be downloaded from the SANSOR Website – you can download it by clicking on this link: <https://www.sansor.org/downloadable-resources/#scheme>

The following changes and additions to the labelling requirements for seed certified in terms of the South African Seed Certification Scheme and/or the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes will be implemented as from 1 October 2021, unless otherwise stated:

1. Subsection 11.(1) of the Scheme now makes provision for certification of 2nd Generation Certified Seed, identified by a red Certification label (Subsection 18.(2)(c)). This will be used when seed is being produced using Certified Seed 1st Generation (blue label) as source - this is only applicable for open-pollinating varieties, including self-pollinating and apomictic varieties. That means that in future, except for exceptional circumstances, SANSOR will not allow the 'upgrading' of Certified Seed 1st Generation to be used (as Basic Seed) for the production of Certified Seed 1st Generation anymore. In future such seed will be certified as Certified Seed 2nd Generation.
2. According to the new Scheme, all information on certification labels have to printed using a printer (see subsection 18.(4)(c) – that means that handwritten information on labels will not be accepted anymore. We will allow for a phase-in period for those companies that have already prepared labels and that are already attached to bags, where the information was entered on the labels by using a pen. Those companies and institutions that do not have a suitable printer for this purpose, please contact Kobus van Huyssteen at techoffice@sansor.co.za for contact details of suppliers. Alternatively, for those companies that do not wish to purchase a printer, SANSOR will print the seed lot-specific information on the labels for them at a fee, including courier costs.

DIRECTORS:

RH Roselt (Chairman), N Goble (Vice-Chairman), PR Smit, B Lever, DE Malan, M Ramokgopa, Dr L Chetty

3. Subsection 18.(4)(c) also stipulates that the word “Species:” followed by the Botanical name of the kind of plant to which the seed belongs, must be indicated on the label. This is in addition to the “Kind:” followed by the recognised common name of the kind of plant to which such seed belongs. Please ensure that the spacing and font sizes on the labels are such that it would accommodate all the required information and still be clearly legible.
4. The requirement that the ‘Year of Production’ had to be indicated on the S.A. Certified Seed labels was deleted from the new Scheme, so it is not obligatory anymore. However, companies are welcome to still indicate it, or the Date of Sealing, on the SA Certified Seed labels as additional information.
5. There were also some changes to the OECD Seed Schemes regarding labelling. In the case where seed is certified under the OECD Seed Schemes and therefore OECD Labels are being used, please note that the date of sealing must be indicated on the labels as from 1 January 2022 when the updated OECD Seed Schemes will be published. It should be indicated according to this format: ‘Date sealed: (MM/YYYY). For example, if a seed lot was packaged during September 2021, it should be indicated as “Date Sealed: 09/2021”. If seed lots were repacked and relabeled during September 2021, the date of repacking must be indicated on the new label as “Date Repacked, Relabeled and Sealed: 09/2021”.
6. In order for SANSOR to monitor the correctness of the labels and to ensure that the correct Varietal Certificate is issued, as well as for security, traceability and recordkeeping purposes, as from 1 January 2022 samplers must take a photograph of the certification label (the side on which the seed lot-specific information is printed) of all certified seed lots that they sample. The quality of the picture should be such that all the printed information is clearly discernible. The sampler must provide the photo to the person who is going to apply to SANSOR for the final Certification Certificate of that seed lot. This photo, whether printed or digital, must be submitted together with the Preliminary Certificate and Seed Analysis Reports when application is made for the issuing of the Varietal Certification Certificate (S or ZAF).

We remain available for any queries in this regard.

Best wishes,



E Goldschagg
Technical Manager
SANSOR