



Growing together

NEW ZEALAND SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

ISSUE 2 – OCTOBER 2014

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THE SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION NEWSLETTER

The Seed Potato Certification Newsletter will continue to be produced annually in October, but there will be regular updates on seed certification in the Potatoes New Zealand e-newsletter.

If you lose a newsletter, or need additional information, it can be found on the Potatoes NZ website (www.potatoesnz.co.nz).

FEES FOR THE 2014-15 SEED YEAR

Last year there was no increase in seed potato certification fees, and you will be pleased to hear there will only be a modest increase for the 2014-15 season.

The entry fee for “standard” entries (i.e. those where field and tuber inspections are carried out by AsureQuality or SGS) is \$310 plus GST per hectare (up from \$305). This is made up of two parts: an administration fee of \$60 plus GST per ha and an inspection fee of \$250 plus GST per ha.

The fee for “approved organisation” entries (i.e. those where field and tuber inspections are being carried out by an approved organisation such as Eurogrow) is \$60 plus GST per hectare (up from \$58). This is the administration fee only.

Potatoes NZ will invoice you directly for your fees based on the areas entered into the seed certification database.

PAYMENTS PROCESS – VERY IMPORTANT!

As was the case last year, Potatoes NZ will invoice you directly for your fees based on the areas entered into the seed certification database. So there is no need to send any money at the time of registration.

For “standard” entriesASUREQuality will send us a summary of your entries by 31st January and Potatoes NZ will invoice you for half of your fees in February. Later in the year we will do a reconciliation to account for later entries, and by 31st May we will send you a second invoice for the balance of the fees.

For “approved organisation” entries, please send your entries directly to Eurogrow. Eurogrow will advise ASUREQuality of the entries and send us a summary by 31st January. In February we will invoice Eurogrow for your administration fee.

This process worked well last season, except that a number of late entries complicated the invoicing process.

LATE ENTRIES

Last season there were a lot of entries that were more than 21 days after planting. All entries should be received within 21 days of planting. We do appreciate that planting is a busy time and that it may be more convenient to put all of the entries in together, but please bear in mind that inspectors need to plan their work and ensure that they inspect your crops at the correct time so your cooperation in getting your entries in promptly is appreciated.

RULE CHANGES

Some important changes to the seed potato certification scheme were discussed with growers in Ashburton recently, and these have now been approved by the Authority. The changes are the result of work done over the last year by two Technical Panels set up by the Authority, comprising of a number of growers, technical experts and scientists. One technical panel was charged with the responsibility of reviewing the rules, identifying inconsistencies, and revising the format to make the document easier to read and understand. Another technical panel looked at the tolerances for viruses, diseases, and other faults within the scheme.

The changes that were discussed with growers include:

- Reformatting and corrections for consistency. All of the grower requirements have been brought together in the same section, putting everything a seed grower needs to know in one place. We have also reduced the number of pages by removing the requirements for approved organisations and making them available from Potatoes NZ.
- New requirements for G0 material. Tissue culture plantlets and mini-tubers entering the scheme are considered to be G0, and when planted in the ground these become G1 harvested. It was always the Authority’s intention that tissue culture plantlets and mini-tubers planted in the ground should be G0, but previous versions of the scheme rules had omitted to include tissue culture plantlets. This omission has been corrected. To ensure that material entering the scheme has been produced by registered facilities, growers and merchants entering G0 material will also be required to submit a statement of origin provided by the facility operator.
- Registration of tissue culture laboratories and mini-tuber production facilities. Last year the Authority introduced new requirements for the facilities that produce tissue culture plantlets and mini-tubers entering the scheme as G0 material. These were developed by a technical panel of facility operators, an Authority member, and a plant pathologist and describe the requirements for structures, hygiene, testing, and traceability. This year the Authority will be contacting the facility operators and inviting them to register their facilities, and over the next 18 months we will work towards having the facilities audited and approved as meeting the requirements of the scheme.

- New requirements for G2 virus testing. All G2 seedlines are required to be virus tested. A standard sampling method has been developed, and a tolerance introduced. Where a seedline returns a positive virus test for only 1 of the 10 subsamples tested this will be allowed to proceed to the next generation, but must be identified as having failed the G2 virus test and re-tested in subsequent generations. Seedlines with more than 1 in 10 subsamples testing positive will be removed from the scheme.
- Modifications to field tolerances. The following table of tolerances has been adopted, requirements relating to chemical damage and weeds clarified, and the previous table of tolerances for combined viruses and rogues has been deleted.

Table 1. Tolerances for faults by visual examination within the pyramid programme of the Seed Potato Certification Scheme.

Fault type	Harvest class tolerance permitted (%)					
	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6
Maximum Virus Potato virus A, M, X, Y, & leafroll virus	0	0.05 (1 in 2000)	0.05 (1 in 2000)	0.05 (1 in 2000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.2 (1 in 500)
Maximum Rogues (off types, volunteers and foreign varieties)	0	0	0.01 (1 in 10,000)	0.01 (1 in 10,000)	0.01 (1 in 10,000)	0.025 (1 in 4000)
Maximum Blackleg (<i>E. carotovora</i>)	0	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.3 (1 in 333)
Maximum wilt <i>Verticillium</i> , <i>Fusarium</i> , Pink Rot.	0	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.1 (1 in 1000)	0.5 (1 in 200)

- Scab tolerances. A maximum tolerance for powdery scab has been set at 1% of tubers in any generation of the pyramid programme or in the group programme. Sampling requirements have been adjusted to reflect this change.
- Group programme. Seed potatoes within the group programme are now required to meet the G6 field tolerances and tuber tolerances. The previous table of tolerances for the group programme has been deleted.
- Commercial downgrading. Downgrading seed to a lower classification (higher G number) for commercial purposes has been a common practice, but the scheme did not specifically allow for this. The scheme now makes it clear that seedlines may be voluntarily downgraded to a lower classification (a higher G number) providing the lines meet the tolerances and requirements for the intended classification (G number).
- Certified and uncertified seed on the same property. Where table or uncertified crops are grown on the same property as certified seed, all crops must be grown from certified seed, and there should be a 2m gap between such crops.

We hope the changes have made the document easier to read and understand, and that the revised tolerances are easier to implement while still maintaining a very high standard – all of the tolerances are well below those recommended internationally. A copy of the revised scheme rules has been sent to every seed grower, and can also be found on the Potatoes NZ website:

<http://www.potatoesnz.co.nz/Overview/Seed-certification/Rules-regulations-and-registration.htm>

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

In the last year there have been a number of changes to the make-up of the Authority. We would like to thank Ian Corbett, Terry Olsen, and Kevin Balle for their past service and welcome Richard Redfern, Scott Clelland, and Kerry Hughes as new members.

Current members of the Seed Potato Certification Authority are:

Andy Innes (**Chair**)
Seed grower, Canterbury

Richard Redfern
Seed grower, Canterbury

Tony Hendrikse
Merchant, Hamilton

Kerry Hughes
Merchant, Canterbury

Scott Clelland
End user (McCain Foods), Canterbury

Monty Spencer
End user (A.S. Wilcox), Pukekohe

CONTACT DETAILS

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