

SCOTTISH SEED POTATO CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

MARKETING LEAFLET

2009/10



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Foreword - IMPORTANT

MARKETING OF SEED POTATOES – 2009/2010

There are a number of issues that you should be aware of this season therefore please take time to read this foreword and leaflet.

Dickeya spp

A new strain of *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (now renamed *Dickeya* spp.) has emerged as a major threat to potato production. Symptoms are very similar to Blackleg but the new strain appears to be more aggressive. At the moment it is not present in Scottish seed potatoes however it has been found in other EC countries. Given the risk posed by this new *Dickeya* strain, the Scottish Government is considering possible options to revise the SPCS to protect the health of Scottish potatoes. A consultation paper setting out the proposals will hopefully be issued to Industry before the end of the year.

Marketing – Class E

The planting of Class A potatoes on a unit where seed potatoes are being grown for inspection within the SPCS is not permitted. The SPCS introduced a number of flexibilities into the labelling arrangements which should allow the needs of buyers and sellers to be taken into account and for this requirement to be met. The labelling options are detailed in Section 6 of this leaflet.

SPCS advise against voluntarily downgrading to class A. Marketing of voluntarily downgraded potatoes should be at class E

Chemical Treatment

Information as to the chemicals that have been applied to seed potatoes can now be included on the official label. This means the active ingredient as opposed to a brand name. The chemical treatment part of the label application form has been designed so that inclusion on the official labels can be requested and the active ingredient and when it was applied can be entered.

New Label Format

From now on only labels that have a tie hole will be issued. These labels will continue to be issued for the sealing of boxes and jumbo bags but they can now also be used for sealing of sacks as well. Plain labels are no longer available.

The information that will appear on the labels will essentially be the same as before but will be shown in a different manner. There will continue to be four types of labels – Basic, Pre-basic, Approved Stock and Test and Trial.

New Label Application Forms

We have introduced a new label application form (copy enclosed) that will replace the three that were previously used for Home, Export and Approved Stocks. We have also revamped the application form used by producers of PBTC crops. These forms are available from the SASA website, SPCS and your Area Labelling Office.

The forms can be downloaded, saved and then completed electronically or manually and e-mailed to the appropriate Area Office. The e-mail addresses are shown at Section 6 When doing this you must make it clear in the e-mail who is requesting the labels and their position in the business. Guidance on how to complete the forms is also contained on the website and a copy is enclosed.

Labels will not be issued without the completion of the appropriate authorisation having been completed.

Label Fees - Invoicing

Many of you already receive a monthly invoice that contains the charges that you are due to pay for labels requested and credits that you are due to receive for those returned. This is a rolling process over the season. This facility will now be applied to all those who require seed potato labels. Payment for labels at the Area Offices has been discontinued. Those of you who previously received invoices should note that you will no longer receive photocopies of the label applications that were submitted and that we have also revamped the information that will accompany the invoice.

It is also very important that you know your applicant number as this must be entered on the application form. The number is shown as the Producer number on the Crop Acceptance Notification and Crop Inspection report forms. If someone else is to be invoiced then their applicant number must be entered in the Invoice to Applicant Number section.

New Crop ID Numbers

You should already be aware that a new format of crop id numbers has been introduced this year, a five digit number as opposed to the 10 digit number. Please remember to use this on all occasions when submitting an application for labels. The numbers can be found on the crop inspection report forms that were issued to you recently

Charlie Laing
SASA Potato Branch
November 2009

1 GENERAL

Marketing of Scottish seed potatoes is governed by the Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000 as amended, Plant Health matters are governed by the Plant Health (Scotland) Order 2005 and the Plant Health (Potatoes) (Scotland) Order 2006. Fees are determined by the Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 as amended. All seed potato growers and merchants should make themselves aware of the requirements of these Regulations.

It is an offence to market seed potatoes if:-

- a crop inspection report has not been issued for the potatoes;
- the containers have not been officially labelled and sealed;
- the tubers have not been inspected in accordance with the Regulations.

At all stages of marketing, the "seller" will be the person responsible for complying with the Regulations. Any person who sells, consigns or delivers pre-basic or basic seed potatoes shall issue to the purchaser, no later than 14 days after the sale or delivery of the potatoes, a sale note, delivery note, invoice or similar document specifying the following:-

Name and address of seller
Net weight
Variety
Pre-basic or basic seed potatoes (as appropriate)
Class and class generation (if shown on the official label)
Community grade i.e. EC2 or EC3 (applies only to Basic seed potatoes)
Size
Crop identification number
Particulars of any chemical treatment

It is not acceptable to refer to the details printed on the official labels.

The name of any chemical product used to treat seed potato tubers must be stated on suitable labels attached to the packages or containers. It is also possible to request that the chemical treatment be shown on the official label and in the sale documents. Further details about chemical treatment are given in section 9.

The Regulations define "marketing" as:-

- selling, holding with a view to sale and offering for sale; and
- any disposal, supply or transfer

for the purpose of commercial exploitation of seed potatoes to third parties, whether or not for consideration (payment); and "market" and "marketed" shall be construed accordingly.

All seed potatoes moved from the farm on which they were grown must be labelled, sealed and officially inspected in accordance with the Regulations.

The only exceptions to this are when potatoes are moved elsewhere for storage and/or for dressing - but only if they remain under the control of the grower. They must, at all times, be identifiable, with every box or container clearly marked to show at least the year of production, variety, class, field identity and farm of origin. These potatoes may be returned to the farm on which they were grown for planting without official labelling and inspection provided their identification is maintained. Potatoes

moved from a central store for planting other than by the grower must be officially labelled, sealed and inspected; this includes lots transferred between growers by a single applicant. The RPID Area Office or SPCS Administration must be informed about any such movements.

Potatoes grown in the name of one producer and retained for planting in another producer's name in the following season must be officially inspected and labelled. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in applications for the inspection of growing crops of seed potatoes on the second producer's unit being refused. This can be a problem where an applicant contracts a grower to raise a crop and then allows the grower to retain some seed for planting in their own name the following year. Such seed should be labelled and inspected as ownership has changed.

All persons involved in the production and marketing of seed potatoes should maintain records of all their transactions in seed potatoes for at least two years. The Plant Health (Scotland) Order 2005 requires plant passports (i.e. the label) to be retained by the final customer for at least one year. Growers are, therefore, required to retain all labels from purchased seed for at least one year. If required by an SG inspector, growers must produce any declarations, certificates, crop inspection reports, labels, records or invoices relating to the planting, classification or marketing of seed potatoes. SASA will also require labels and invoices for purchased seed to be submitted in support of applications for growing crop inspections. The only exception to this requirement is in respect of seed potatoes that have been retained by the person to whom the Crop Inspection Report was issued.

Potatoes delivered without official labels or where the seal is absent or incorrectly applied must not be accepted for planting.

Additional arrangements apply to pre-basic and basic seed potatoes being exported to countries out with the European Community (see section 19).

2 STORAGE

The crop identity of all tubers must be maintained at all times. All potatoes in store must be clearly identified at all times. Tubers from crops grown in separate fields and of different classes or varieties must be stored separately. Each stock must be clearly identified to show at least the year of production, variety, class, field identity and farm of origin. Each container must be individually labelled or marked to show the identity of the contents at all times. Where potatoes are stored in bulk, each bin or container must be clearly marked to show the details of the stock. Arrangements should be such as to satisfy an Inspector that adequate separation between stocks is maintained at all times. If potatoes are to be moved from the farm for grading, the Area Office or SPCS Administration must be informed.

If the identity of a stock is lost, the crop inspection report will be withdrawn for all crops for which the harvested tubers cannot be identified, or labels will be refused for any lots or part lots for which identification has not been maintained. In addition, any stocks of seed potatoes retained for planting which cannot be identified will not be eligible for entry into the classification scheme the following year.

Potatoes that were entered for growing crop inspection but for which a crop inspection report was not issued (i.e. withdrawn and failed) must be harvested, stored, identified and kept separate from classified seed potatoes at all times. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the withdrawal of crop inspection reports for the latter or official labels may be refused.

3 SEALING OF CONTAINERS

All seed potatoes (except for small retail quantities) must be sold in containers which are closed by a "sealing device" and to which are attached official labels giving certain required information including the crop identification number, variety, class, grade, size, net weight with the month and year of closing. A "sealing device" is a device applied in such a way that, when the container is opened, the device will be broken and so indicates to the buyer that the crop identity has been lost (see section 16).

The label and the "sealing device" may be the same thing when a label is incorporated into the machine stitching used to close the mouth of a bag. When machine stitching is not used, labels must be associated with an official plastic strap seal or self-locking metal seal supplied with the labels requested.

Where boxes are used for marketing seed potatoes, each box must be individually labelled and sealed. Every box must have a cover, for example hessian or small mesh netting, which must be tied to the box with a **single unbroken** length of twine. This must then be sealed with a tie-hole label and metal seal in such a way that the seal must be broken or the twine cut to remove the cover.

If other containers are to be used, the Inspector will have to be satisfied that the method of closure used will comply with the labelling and sealing provisions in the Regulations. Those wishing to use such containers should discuss their proposed closure methods with an Inspector before ordering labels.

4 BAGS AND CONTAINERS

Bags used for the marketing of seed must be new. Packages or containers (other than bags) approved by an Inspector, including any chitting trays, boxes or crates, must also be new or must have been cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of an Inspector if they have been used previously for any purpose.

5 BULK LOADS

If a grower is proposing to transport in "Bulk loads", the prior approval of the Area Office must be obtained. Approval will only be given if the Inspector is satisfied with the arrangements for the dressing, loading, inspection and sealing of the stock concerned. The end user of the seed will also have to provide written confirmation that delivery in bulk is acceptable. However, if the seller's commercial documentation clearly states that delivery will be made in bulk then it will not be necessary for an end user letter to be submitted, provided that the Area Office has received confirmation from the seller, in writing, that such commercial documentation is used in all cases. 'Commercial documentation' refers to contracts of sale, pre-sale contracts and any other written confirmation, made available to the end user prior to delivery.

Any seller who wishes to use his commercial documentation in place of an end user's letter must apply, in writing, to one of the Area Offices for formal approval before submitting a request for labels. When a seller is provided with this type of approval, all Area Offices will be informed so that labels may be issued. There will be no further requirement for either a copy of the documentation or an end user letter for any future applications for labels for seed lots moving in bulk. Spot checks will be carried out on applications made under these arrangements.

6 APPLICATIONS FOR LABELS

An example of the 2009 application form for labels and inspection is attached. Its use covers the marketing of all EC (Home) and Non EC (Export) consignments of field grown Pre-basic and Basic seed potatoes including Approved Stocks.

The form can be obtained from the SASA website at www.sasa.gov.uk/seed_potatoes/classification/marketing, SPCS Administration or from your local Area Labelling Office at Perth, Inverurie and Inverness.

The form can be downloaded and used as a template for electronic completion and e-mailed to the appropriate Area Office. It can also be completed manually and submitted by fax. Guidance on the use of the form is also available on the website

The e-mail addresses for the Area Offices are as follows:

Inverness - invernesslabelroom@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Perth - perthlabelroom@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Inverurie - inverurielabelroom@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

When e-mailing you must make it clear in the e-mail who is requesting the labels and their position in the business.

Labels will not be issued without the completion of the appropriate authorisation having been completed.

On receipt of an application for labels, the Area Office will print and supply the appropriate number of labels showing the details of the consignment. It is an offence to amend details printed on official labels. Where details require to be changed, new labels must be applied for and the original labels returned.

Labels for **Pre-basic** potatoes are **white with a diagonal violet line**. The class will be shown as Pre-basic and the generation as 1, 2, 3 or 4 although the inclusion of the generation is optional (see the table below).

Labels for **Basic** potatoes are **white**; they will show, in addition to the class and generation (optional), a Community Grade, i.e. for class SE or E – grade EC 2, for class A – grade EC 3.

Labels for **Approved Stocks** are **yellow** and will be issued for those potatoes produced from varieties that are not on the UK National List or the EU Common Catalogue. The label will show APPROVED STOCKS and also be annotated “FOR TEST PURPOSES ONLY”. The label will also show the “equivalent class” of the crop determined by the crop status at the time of application. From 2009 A/S crops have a crop number in line with all other crops in the SPCS, this crop number must be provided when making a label application.

Where varieties are listed between the time the growing crop application is made and when a label application is made crops of these varieties will be eligible for marketing on a basic or pre-basic label in accordance with the entry class of the crop.

Varieties marketed to non-EC countries (Export) need not be on the UK National List or EU Common Catalogue provided the variety is accepted by the relevant authority in the destination country. Such varieties may be exported on a Pre-basic or Basic label.

Varieties that are undergoing NL Testing may be marketed for **Test and Trial Purposes** and the label for this is **orange**. However, the circumstances that allow this are tightly drawn and require notification/application to SASA at the time of growing crop inspection.

Potatoes can be marketed at the class shown on the Crop Inspection Report or at any of the relevant lower classes. The table below shows the choices available.

Class on Crop Inspection Report	Classes eligible for marketing in addition to that specified on the Report
Pre-basic TC	Pre-basic 1, Pre-basic, SE1, SE, E1, E, A
Pre-basic 1, 2, 3, 4	Pre-basic, SE1, SE, E1, E, A
SE1, SE2, SE3	SE, E1, E, A
E1, E2, E3	E, A
A	A

Once a consignment from a crop has been marketed at a lower class it cannot be reinstated to the higher class.

The class on the label confirms the final classification of the lot and determines at which class potatoes that have been marketed can be entered into the classification scheme in the following season. If potatoes from a crop are retained by the grower then the class on the crop inspection report will determine the entry class in the following season.

If a lot is downgraded to class A, the potatoes will not be eligible for further multiplication as seed and cannot be grown on a farm where seed potatoes are grown for classification within the SPCS. If class A is planted on a seed unit, all potato crops on the unit will become ineligible for classification as seed.

Potatoes voluntarily downgraded to class E (without the class generation) will not be eligible for further multiplication as seed potatoes but can be grown on a farm where seed potatoes are being grown for inspection.

SPCS advise against voluntarily downgrading to class A. Marketing of voluntarily downgraded potatoes should be at class E

No separate application for marketing at a lower class needs to be made. The class required for marketing should be entered at the appropriate section of the label application form.

As indicated above, producers may apply for labels to be printed with the appropriate class but without the class generation marker, e.g. SE instead of SE1. Consequently, the potatoes will only be accepted for growing crop inspection in the following season at the next lower class. The class required should be entered at the appropriate section of the label application form.

Producers may apply for the field generation to be shown on the label. Applicants should indicate in the Field Generation section of the label application form if they do or do not wish to have the field generation printed. The information will appear as follows: e.g. Class SE1 FG3.

Label applications should be submitted at least five working days before grading is expected to begin and the form must be signed by the owner of the crop or a person authorised to act on their behalf. Where application for labels is made by someone other than the owner (e.g. grower, farm manager, co-operative or merchant) written authorisation to this effect must be supplied on form SPL10 (which can be obtained

from Area Offices), either prior to, or at the time of application. Area Offices may be unable to supply labels where inadequate notice has been given.

The expected date of grading must be provided. The date of closing, which will be printed on the labels, will be shown as the day, month and year. This will be the date of closing given on the application form or the date of issue of the labels if the closing date has not been specified.

In cases where it is not possible for applicants to give the required amount of notice, it may still be possible to provide labels in time as long as there is a minimum period of notice of two clear working days from receipt of application to time of issue. This will be judged on a case by case basis. Telephone orders will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Where labels are ordered by telephone, a signed application form will still be required by the Area Office before the labels can be released. On occasions where applicants have to dress an urgent order at short notice and where the latter rule will present difficulties, applicants should contact the Area Office who will consider whether special arrangements could be made.

In making an application, the grower should state whether the labels will be collected or if they should be posted. Labels to be posted will be sent by 1st Class Royal Mail but the Area Offices cannot accept responsibility for postal delays. All labels will be supplied as appropriate (e.g. 40 labels to the tonne where potatoes are being sold in 25 kg bags or 1 label to the tonne where the sale is in tonne bags or boxes). It is, therefore, important that applicants state **the type of containers which will be used** when ordering their labels. You must state if a bag or a box is to be used as this will determine the type of seal to be issued.

Note that the SPCS now only uses tie hole labels and these can be used in conjunction with stitching into the mouth of the bag to make an official seal (in place of plain labels)

Details of chemical treatment of tubers must also be declared on applications for official labels (see section 9).

Quantities of labels ordered will be checked against the estimated yield of the crop and where these appear excessive, labels may be refused pending investigation.

Further details may be obtained from your local Area Office.

7 CHARGES /PAYMENT

The charge for labels for field grown Pre-basic and Basic seed potatoes is £3.00 per tonne (or part of a tonne). Monthly invoices will be issued to producers who will be expected to pay for all labels issued, whether used or not, immediately after receiving an invoice. Details, as requested on the application form, of the person to be invoiced must be entered on the label application form.

Inspection and labels for Approved Stocks is £25 per half hour or part thereof.

All payments should be by cheque payable to the "Scottish Executive" and marked "A/C Payee only". This should be submitted as instructed on the invoice.

8 RETURNED LABELS

The Scottish Government remains the owner of all official labels, even after they have been issued.

Official labels are valid for one calendar month from the date of closing shown on them.

If dressing has not begun within the period of validity, the unused labels must be returned to the office from which they were issued. Any other surplus labels, including those that have been attached to containers of seed potatoes but then replaced with other labels prior to marketing, must also be returned to the issuing office.

In all circumstances, all returned labels must be batched in readily identifiable lots.

Credit will be given for returned labels or seals under the following conditions:-

they were issued for field grown Pre-basic and Basic seed potatoes;

and

they are received by the local area office **within two calendar months** of the date of closing;

and

they have not been used (i.e. were never attached to containers);

or

they have been used but the consignment is redressed before loading;

or

they have been used but the consignment was rejected by a visiting inspector from an importing country for reasons other than plant health.

A credit will be given or a refund will be issued to the original value of the labels but the sum of £1.00 per tonne will be retained by the Area Office to cover the costs involved.

No credit will be given for returned labels or seals that:-

cover less than a tonne (Please note that returned labels from different issues cannot be aggregated for refund purposes);

or

were used for consignments that subsequently failed an inspection (see also Section 17).

9 CHEMICAL TREATMENT

Where seed potatoes have been treated with any chemical the name of that chemical (active ingredient) must be stated on a label attached to the container and also on a document inside the sack or container. No document inside is necessary where such a statement is printed permanently on the sack or container or on a wear and tear resistant label attached to it. It is now possible to include the name of the chemical active ingredient on the official label. If applicants wish this to be included they should

enter the active ingredient on the label application form and indicate that this should be printed on the label. SPCS recommends use of company labels stating what chemicals have been used and showing H & S data. Details of chemical treatment will also appear on the Phytosanitary certificate where applicable when potatoes are being exported outwith the EC.

Classified seed potatoes which have been treated with a product primarily meant as an application for inhibiting sprouting are unsuitable for marketing.

Where stocks are transferred "as grown" or "rough dressed" to a co-operative or a central store it is for the grower to ensure that the responsibility for chemical treatment labelling is fulfilled by the co-operative or merchant into whose hands the potatoes have passed. Prior notification giving details of such transfers must be provided, in writing to the local Area Office, together with the necessary authorisation to order labels (see section 6).

Inspectors may carry out a random check sampling procedure and any tuber samples taken may be subjected to laboratory examination for the presence of chemicals.

10 NON-OFFICIAL LABELS

In addition to the official labels, merchants or co-operatives may also attach their own company labels that display their names or brands, to the containers. They may also put their company name and identifying marks on to the containers if required.

11 WEIGHTS AND SIZING OF TUBERS

All information should be given in metric units when ordering labels.

Weight of container – For the purpose of the SPCS, the following may be used: 1.3 tonne, 1.25 tonne, 1 tonne, 0.5 tonne, 50 kg or 25 kg. Although in the case of bags greater than 1 tonne it is accepted that other sizes are in operation which will be acceptable.

Size range of tubers - These should be stated in metric measure (e.g. 35 mm x 55 mm). The minimum size for seed permitted under the Regulations is 25 mm, with no upper limit. Sizes over 35 mm must be stated in multiples of 5 mm. Sizes ranges for marketing outside the EC may differ (see section 19)

Maximum variation in size between tubers in a lot – This is 25 mm for field grown Pre-basic and Basic seed potatoes. This does not apply to non-EC export destinations, although individual countries may have specific rules on size.

Distribution of tuber sizes within a lot - This should be as specified on the label and should conform to the natural distribution of tuber sizes of the harvested crop, e.g. in an export crop graded 25 x 60 the 35 x 55 tubers should not have been removed.

12 STANDARDS FOR LOTS PRESENTED FOR MARKETING

The minimum standards for marketing are identified in Appendix 1. Details of the tolerances applied during official examination are shown in Appendices 2-5.

Note that A/S lots will be inspected according to the tolerances for the equivalent class at which the crop was entered for growing crop inspection

For Super Elite, Elite and A class seed potatoes, a strict tolerance for progressive diseases such as rots and skin spot will be applied to ensure that consignments comply with the specified tolerances at delivery. When lots contain more than 0.35% rots, re-grading or holding for up to 14 days may be required by an inspector to check that the lot will meet the tolerance. This may also be applied where skin spot exceeds 1% for Class A. For seed potato lots intended for non-EC markets, a tolerance of 0.2% for rots will apply at inspection.

Potatoes must be clean and dry.

Growers are encouraged to take and wash a sample from each consignment after dressing to check the health standard of the lot being presented for inspection. Inspectors may wash samples of tubers whenever they feel in any doubt about the health standard of the lot presented.

13 REQUESTS FOR INSPECTION

When a lot, or lots, are ready for inspection a request must be directed to the local Area Office. The label application form should provide accurate information as to where and when dressing will take place. Where this is unknown at the time of application, or where a change in the time and place of dressing is anticipated, the correct information must be notified by telephone prior to dressing. Failure to notify the Area Office of any change may lead to further orders for labels being withheld. The Area Office will make every effort to ensure that requests for inspections received up to 9.00 am on a particular day will be carried out on that day. Requests received after that time will be carried out no later than the next working day. No lot should move from the point of dressing without inspection, unless this is specifically authorised in writing by an inspector.

14 INSPECTIONS PROCEDURES

Inspection will normally be at the place of grading but may be at other points if necessary. Growers must ensure that adequate inspection facilities are provided. As a minimum, these are considered to be an inspection table or equivalent, with sufficient lighting to enable the potatoes to be clearly seen. Inspecting officers will refuse to inspect and release lots where adequate facilities are not provided. Inspections will be available at weekends and on local Area Office holidays only upon specific request.

A lot shall comprise the produce of only one crop with the variety, crop identification number, class and size (all as identified on the official label) being the same throughout. The lot shall be further identified by reference to the official label numbers.

The Inspector will seek to establish contact with the grower or an appropriate representative before proceeding with an inspection.

The grower must ensure that the official labels are applied to bags and containers in such a way that a representative in the store is able to provide details of the first and last label number in any lot to the inspector. Failure to do so will result in a refusal to inspect until label number details are provided or the grower undertakes to return the balance of any unused labels from that particular label order.

After the inspection, the Inspector will provide a signed, stamped copy of the inspection report form containing details of what was found during the inspection.

15 SAMPLING

Samples for inspection will be drawn in accordance with the following procedures:

Where a lot is presented in containers of up to 50 kg, containers will be selected at random from the lot in the sampling ratio of 1 in 20, subject to a minimum of 2 containers.

Where a lot is presented in containers over 50 kg, samples will be drawn at random from these containers in a ratio of 1 in 4, subject to a minimum of 2 containers.

Where an inspector is concerned about the uniformity of a lot, further containers will be inspected.

Where bags are stacked on pallets, bags will be selected from as many different pallets as possible and pallets may have to be dismantled to provide bags for inspection from the lower layers.

Where a lot is presented in **1 tonne bags or boxes**, the containers **will be decanted** as required. Full assistance must be afforded to the inspector in extracting selected containers from the lot and facilities must be provided to enable the inspector to do so safely. In addition, facilities must also be provided to allow him or her to carry out the inspection safely.

In the event of no specific facility being available for inspection purposes, the dressing line may have to be stopped and used for this purpose.

For export to non-EC countries, more extensive sampling may be conducted to provide assurance of compliance with the tolerances specified by importing countries.

16 RE-SEALING OF CONTAINERS

No person shall market a bag or container of pre-basic or basic seed potatoes unless it has been sealed with an unbroken "sealing device". Labels which have been machine stitched into the mouth of the bag must not be removed and re-stitched other than under the supervision of an inspector.

17 LOTS FAILING TO MEET STANDARDS

Lots which, in the opinion of the inspector, are likely to fail to meet any of the specified requirements, due to deterioration after dispatch or the suspected presence of a quarantine disease, may be served with a notice. The consignment cannot be marketed as seed until the measures specified in the notice have been carried out. Further movement will not be permitted unless authorised by an inspector. It will be at the inspector's discretion whether the labels are removed during this operation. If the labels are not removed, the serial numbers will be noted.

Where movement of a consignment is delayed to allow for the possible development of damage from frost or disease (on the instructions of an inspector without re-dressing at that stage) the labels will be left on the containers pending re-inspection.

18 ENFORCEMENT

Where an inspector has issued a statutory notice (as explained in section 17) but allows re-grading, the notice will remain in force until this has been carried out to the

inspector's satisfaction or arrangements have been made for the disposal of the lot other than as seed.

Where a lot is moved as seed without inspection, prosecution may result.

19 EXPORTS OF SEED POTATOES TO NON-EC COUNTRIES

Certification of Scottish seed potatoes for export outside the EC is governed by the Plant Health (Export Certification) (Scotland) Order 2004. All seed potato growers and exporters should make themselves aware of its requirements.

When seed potatoes are exported to non-EC countries or the Canary Islands, a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the Area Office is required which states that the consignment, or a representative sample, has been inspected and that the potatoes are believed to comply with the current plant health requirements of the importing country. Normally, a Phytosanitary Certificate will be issued before an export consignment is dispatched outside Scotland and will accompany the related consignment. Dispatch of export consignments should be within 14 days of the official inspection. Consignments will be considered to be "dispatched" once they have arrived at the docks for loading onto a ship or at the airport for loading onto a plane, or, when they are transported to their **final** destination by road, once the truck has left the farm or store. If the 14 day period has passed before the consignment is dispatched, a full re-inspection should be applied for and a replacement Phytosanitary Certificate will be issued.

When preparing seed potato consignments for export to non-EC countries, account must be taken of how long the potatoes may be in store or in transit, whether methods of packing used would be suitable for the type of transport and conditions likely to be met during transit. Unless the requirements of an importing country are stricter, Basic seed must meet the minimum export standard at inspection as detailed in Appendix 5. Exporters may wish to consult with their local Area Office or with the Export Liaison Officer at SASA, before grading consignments, to determine whether the importing country requires stricter tolerances than the minimum export standard to ensure that the consignment is prepared accordingly. Details of import requirements can also be found on the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/potatoexports

20 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for compliance with the requirements for the marketing of seed potatoes rests entirely with the seller. The Scottish Government or its officers cannot be held responsible for any failure to seal and label containers correctly, to comply with the minimum dressing standards or an importing country's conditions (where applicable), or to meet any other requirements.

MINIMUM STANDARDS AT THE POINT OF INSPECTION

Potatoes being sold as seed should be prepared to the highest possible standard so that the tolerances for pests, disease, damage and defects set out in Appendices 2-5 are not exceeded on inspection of any consignment within 14 days of delivery to a purchaser. In case of export consignments, this period may be longer.

To ensure that consignments of seed potatoes meet the statutory tolerances for some progressive diseases e.g. rot diseases and skin spot, a higher standard may be enforced by the inspector at inspection.

STANDARDS WHICH MUST BE APPLIED ARE:-

Quarantine Diseases (Group I)

"Nil" tolerances apply as shown.

Rot Diseases (Group II)

These include Tuber Blight, Bacterial Soft Rot, Pit Rot, Watery Wound Rot, Pink Rot, Dry Rot, Gangrene, and Frost Damaged Tubers.

The tolerances shown apply.

Surface Diseases (Group III)

These are Black Scurf, Common Scab, Skin Spot and Powdery Scab

Tubers will be deemed as diseased if the surface area affected is greater than the percentage allowable area of the surface area shown in the relevant Appendix or if only one eye at the rose end is wholly unaffected by the disease.

Where Powdery Scab takes its cankerous form all infected tubers will be counted.

Skin spot: Because of the progressive nature of this disease and its effect on eye viability, voluntary re-grading or holding may be required in order to provide assurance as to the quality of the lot presented for inspection.

The tolerances will apply as shown.

External Blemishes etc. (Group IV)

External blemishes will include: tubers which have been damaged mechanically; seriously affected by wireworms, slugs, vermin or growth cracks; tubers which have become dehydrated (e.g. because of silver scurf or black dot); tubers affected by potato mop top or tobacco rattle virus; tubers with significant sprouting and tubers exhibiting signs of dehydration.

The tolerance will apply as shown.

Dirt or Extraneous Matter (Group V)

This includes soil, straw, detached sprouts etc.

The tolerance will apply as shown.

Stated Size

The proportion of the potatoes which are above or below the stated size ranges must not exceed 3% of the total weight of the consignment by weight in the sample and the distribution of tuber size should reflect the distribution of tuber sizes in the harvested crop i.e. no size fraction of tubers from within the stated range should be removed from the lot at grading.

Varietal Purity

The proportion of the potatoes which deviate from variety must not exceed the percentage of the total weight of the consignment by weight in the sample, as follows:-

Pre-basic TC – 0%; Pre-basic 1 to 4 – 0.01%; Super Elite, Elite and A – 0.1%

Please note that for many export destinations outside the EU, stricter tolerances than those stated below apply (see www.scotland.gov.uk/potatoexports).

PRE-BASIC TC

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Diseases, pests, damage and defects</i>	<i>Individual Tolerances</i>
GROUP I	
Wart Disease	NIL
Potato Tuber Eelworm	NIL
Potato Cyst Nematode	NIL
Ring Rot	NIL
Brown Rot	NIL
Potato Tuber Moth	NIL
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	NIL
Colorado Beetle	NIL
GROUP II	
Blight	NIL
Blackleg	NIL
Gangrene/Dry Rot/Wet Rot	NIL
Frost damaged tubers	NIL
GROUP III	
Skin spot	NIL
Black scurf	NIL
Common scab	NIL
Powdery scab	NIL
GROUP IV	
External blemishes or tubers other than diseased tubers whose shape is atypical for the variety	3%
Superficial necrosis caused by strains of potato virus Y	NIL
GROUP V	
Dirt or other extraneous matter	1%

PRE-BASIC 1 to 4

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>	<i>Column 5</i>
<i>Diseases, pests, damage, and defects</i>	<i>Individual tolerances</i>	<i>Group tolerances</i>	<i>Collective group tolerances</i>	<i>Allowable % surface area cover</i>
GROUP I				
Wart Disease	NIL	-	-	
Potato Tuber Eelworm	NIL	-	-	
Potato Cyst Nematode	NIL	-	-	
Ring Rot	NIL	-	-	
Brown Rot	NIL	-	-	
Potato Tuber Moth	NIL	-	-	
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	NIL	-	-	
Colorado Beetle	NIL	-	-	
GROUP II				
Blight	0.2%	} 0.2%	}	
Blackleg	NIL			
Gangrene/Dry Rot/Wet Rot	0.2%			
Frost damaged tubers	0.2%			
GROUP III				
Skin spot	0.2%	} 5.0%	} 5.0%	12.5%
Black scurf	1.0%			
Common scab	5.0%			
Powdery scab	1.0%			
GROUP IV				
External blemishes or tubers other than diseased tubers whose shape is atypical for the variety	1.0%	}	}	
Superficial necrosis caused by strains of potato virus Y	NIL			
GROUP V				
Dirt or other extraneous matter	1.0%			

**BASIC SEED POTATOES AND EQUIVALENT (EC MARKET)
SUPER ELITE, ELITE, A**

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>	<i>Column 5</i>
<i>Diseases, pests, damage, and defects</i>	<i>Individual tolerances</i>	<i>Group tolerances</i>	<i>Collective group tolerances</i>	<i>Allowable % surface area cover</i>
GROUP I				
Wart Disease	NIL	-	-	
Potato Tuber Eelworm	NIL	-	-	
Potato Cyst Nematode	NIL	-	-	
Ring Rot	NIL	-	-	
Brown Rot	NIL	-	-	
Potato Tuber Moth	NIL	-	-	
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	NIL	-	-	
Colorado Beetle	NIL	-	-	
GROUP II				
Blight	0.5%	} 0.5%	}	
Blackleg	0.5%			
Gangrene/Dry Rot/Wet Rot	0.5%			
Frost damaged tubers	0.5%			
GROUP III				
Skin spot	0.5% (2%*)	} 4.0% (5%*)	} 4.0% (5%*)	12.5%
Black scurf	3.0%			12.5% (25%*)
Common scab	4.0% (5%*)			25.0% (33%*)
Powdery scab	3.0%			12.5%
GROUP IV				
External blemishes or tubers other than diseased tubers whose shape is atypical for the variety	2.0%	} 2.0%	}	
Superficial necrosis caused by strains of potato virus Y	0.1%			
GROUP V				
Dirt or other extraneous matter	1.0%			

*Tolerances to be applied in the case of class A seed potatoes

**BASIC SEED POTATOES INTENDED FOR MARKETS OUTSIDE THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (AND FOR THE CANARY ISLANDS)**

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>	<i>Column 5</i>
<i>Diseases, pests, damage, and defects</i>	<i>Individual tolerances</i>	<i>Group tolerances</i>	<i>Collective group tolerances</i>	<i>Allowable % surface area cover</i>
GROUP I				
Wart Disease	NIL	-	-	
Potato Tuber Eelworm	NIL	-	-	
Potato Cyst Nematode	NIL	-	-	
Ring Rot	NIL	-	-	
Brown Rot	NIL	-	-	
Potato Tuber Moth	NIL	-	-	
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	NIL	-	-	
Colorado Beetle	NIL	-	-	
GROUP II				
Rots including: Blight	0.2%	0.2%		
Blackleg	0.2%			
Gangrene/Dry Rot/Wet Rot	0.2%			
GROUP III				
Skin spot	0.5%	1.5%	4.7%	12.5%
Black scurf	1.5%			12.5%
Common scab	1.5%			12.5%
Powdery scab	1.5%			12.5%
GROUP IV				
External blemishes or tubers other than diseased tubers whose shape is atypical for the variety	1.0%	3.0%		
Superficial necrosis caused by strains of potato virus Y	0.1%			
External necrosis caused by other viruses	2.0%			
GROUP V				
Dirt or other extraneous matter	0.5%			

SPCS ADMINISTRATION AT SASA**CONTACT POINTS FOR ENQUIRIES**

Each individual member of staff in SPCS Administration at SASA is responsible for a group of customers for the services provided by the Section.

Enquiries about applications for growing crop inspection, labelling accounts and pre-cropping soil sampling for PCN should be directed to the officers listed below depending upon the first letter of your surname or name of your company. Using the correct number will save time.

Applicant surname	Contact Name	e-mail	Telephone	Fax
A-C	Stephen Fotheringham	Stephen.Fotheringham@sasa.gsi.gov.uk	0131 244 6348	8920
D-L, T-Z	Darren MacKay	Darren.MacKay@sasa.gsi.gov.uk	" " 6347	" "
M-S	Wilma Sloan	Wilma.Sloan@sasa.gsi.gov.uk	" " 6349	" "

Enquiries about exports and non-EC country requirements should be directed to your local Area Office or to the Export Liaison Officer at SASA, Dr Pieter van de Graaf, tel 0131 244 6354, e-mail Pieter.vandeGraaf@sasa.gsi.gov.uk

Further information about the SPCS and seed potatoes can be found at www.sasa.gov.uk/seed_potatoes

The Scottish Government
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