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To: All Licensed Seed Processors & Packers

Our Ref: SC170

August 2022

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFICATION LABELS

ISSUE

Current UK Seed Certification labels do not meet requirements brought about by EU Exit and the Northern Ireland Protocol

BACKGROUND

Following changes to the seed marketing regulations, amendments are required to [a number of] seed certification labels.

Based on requests from the official labels supplier and the seed trade, the Seed Certification Authorities for Scotland, England and Wales have agreed to reduce the number of different types of labels, by allowing a single format blue label to be used for both Certified Seed (CS) and Certified Seed of the 1st generation. This will also be applied to red labels allowing for Certified Seed (CS) and Certified Seed of the 2nd generation to use the same label format.

In order to comply with plant passport regulations, certain species of seed require a combined Plant Passport Label and official certification label. This has been achieved by leaving an un-printed space on the very top of all [seed certification] labels, allowing processors and packers to print the Plant Passport details in this space if required. This change was fully implemented as of 14 December 2020 https://www.sasa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Seed%20Cert%20162.pdf

The new labels can be used in both GB and Northern Ireland and are not to be pre-printed, providing processors & packers with greater flexibility, whilst also reducing the amount of different types of labels they need to hold in stock.

It is however, a legislative requirement of each of the UK's National Authorities is that an official sequential number be printed by the official label supplier on each label.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Currently all pre-printed labels have the following information on the bottom of them:

"EU Rules and Standards" (all seed apart from mixtures and uncertified seed)

"UK Certifying Authority: Defra/Welsh Ministers/DAERA/SG"

1. The new wording printed (in the same format and position) by the processor for GB will be:

"GB Rules and Standards" (all seed apart from mixtures and uncertified seed)

"UK(GB) Certifying Authority: Defra/Welsh Ministers/Scottish Ministers"

2. The new wording printed on by the processor for NI will be:

"GB Rules and Standards" (all seed apart from mixtures and uncertified seed)

"UK(NI) Certifying Authority: Defra/Welsh Ministers/Scottish Ministers"

3. There are currently two wording formats for blue labels available with the differences being the wording:

"Certified Seed (CS)"

"Certified Seed of 1st Generation"

Under these changes there will be just one blue label format with "Certified Seed" pre-printed on it and immediately below it will be a blank space for the processor or packer to print either "(CS)" of "or 1st Generation"

To bring the red labels in line with the blue labels the current wording on the red label of "Certified Seed of … Generation" will be replaced by "Certified Seed" and as with the blue label there will be space immediately below for the processor or packer to print "2nd Generation" or further generations as required.

4. USE OF OLD STOCKS OF LABELS:-

In order to allow stocks to be used, up old style labels currently in your possession can continue to be used until the 30th June 2023. After that date you will be required to use the new style labels.

NB – Please note that all seed travelling from Scotland to Northern Ireland must be labelled with OECD labels. The procedures for this can be found at this link

https://www.sasa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SEED%20CERT%20-%20Seed%20Certification%20Letter%20163%20-%20BSS042021.pdf

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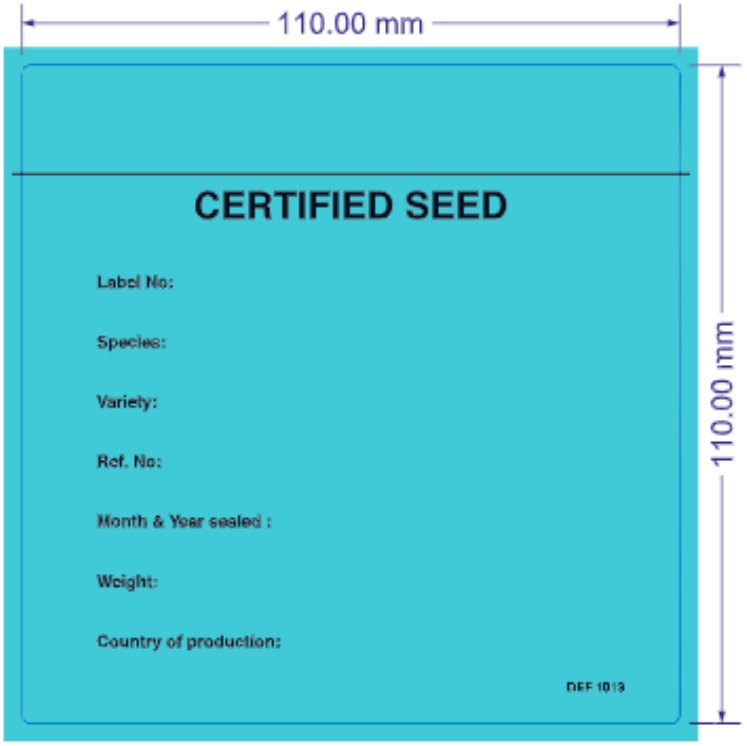
Examples of the label changes showing the details on new labels as supplied by the official labels supplier:-



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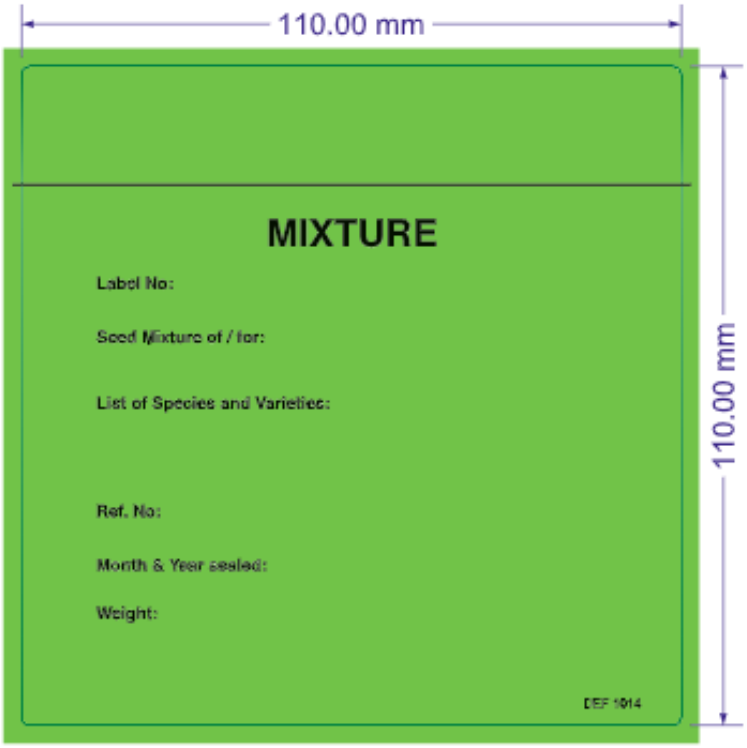

Yours sincerely

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